

HATTRICK FOR HDRC AT AREA 13 DRESSAGE CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFIER 18th July
REPORT BY KATHERINE BROWN

Area 13 Dressage Championship qualifiers were held this year at WIVELSFIELD GREEN. Organised by West End Riding Club the venue was less lavish than last year's and the warm up area was a little restricted. Despite this the performance of horses and riders were not hindered. As ever the strong dressage section of the club allowed several teams to be entered into the competition for both the 2 separate qualifying leagues: the London & South East Championships and National Championships.

First up in the arena was the junior (under 17s) team made up of Florence Turner, Katie Waples, Chloe Barnes and Harriet Snelling. The team put in a strong group performance with the three best scores counting to the overall mark of 60.88% gaining them first position and qualifying them for the Nationals. Of the junior riders Katie Waples partnered by Kushti riding a Prelim 13 test executed a calm and consistent test scoring 65.83% and qualifying individually. Next up to exhibit their prowess was Louise Hamilton, Katherine Brown and Lynn Scott were joined by a new member Tiffany Tasney riding her own A Good sort to make up the senior novice team. Tiffany, who enjoys competing in British Eventing, made a fantastic team debut performance scoring 69.58% helping the team along its way to first position and gaining London and South East and National qualification. Tiffany also had the highest score of the senior novice riders qualifying her individually. Lynn and Louise presented first rate tests scoring 68.33% and 64.17% respectively. Unfortunately the luck of the novice team did not extend to the Senior Open Team (Lizzie and Anna Gorringe, Gill Brown and Petra Coughlin) who were piped to the post by Mid Sussex RC coming second.

The proficient members of the senior open team also made up the riding test team. The Riding Test division of the competition is judged on the ability of the rider rather than the performance of the horse. More first-class scores were achieved ranging from the lowest but still substantial of 68% to the highest of 76.5% from Gill Brown riding her 14.1hh pony Morph. The staggeringly high scores was not enough to win the competition and the team was again piped to the post only this time by Rudgwick RC who gained a fraction of a mark more. Second place on a score of 73.33 % was still good enough for the team to gain an invitation to the National Championships and qualify for the L&SE finals. Claire Worskett mounted on The Wrong Trousers was Horsham's solo entrant for the senior Medium section. Competing as an individual Claire performing a medium 64 test rode consummately attaining 64.14% coming first meaning she will be joining the other successful riders on September 12th to 13th at Lincoln Showground for the National Riding Club finals.

On conclusion of the National qualifiers it was the turn of the senior novice and riding test team in the L&SE league. Unlike the other teams these riders could only qualify for the L&SE finals but not the nationals. Michelle Mallinder (scoring a fantastic mark of 70.42% but beaten to first place by Mid-Sussex by 0.41%), Lucy Lempiere, Tiffany Tansey and Louise Hamilton made up the experienced novice team. The riders worked skilfully with their horses the outcome being a score of 68.16% gaining first place and qualification to the L&SE finals. The riding test team were nearly equally as successful in their section. Helena Evans, Michelle Mallinder, Anna and Lizzy Gorringe collectively performed very consistent tests coming a deserving 2nd place and also qualifying for the L&SE Championships which will be held at British Eventing venue Munstead, Godalming on 27th September.

The final class of the day was a one off non-qualifying competition where the HDRC team the 'High Flyers' rode an Elementary 43 test. The more accomplished dressage riders of the club including Michelle Mallinder, Helena Evans, Claire Worskett and Lizzy Gorringe made up the team. Claire's leading score of 67.24% and the other strong marks from the team members made Horsham triumphant again in their section.

All the HDRC teams entered into the area 13 dressage qualifiers this summer gained a place in either the London and South East or National Championships making it a Hat trick having already qualified for show jumping and horse trials finals earlier this summer (see full reports). The club is as strong as ever in the dressage phase and continues to improve each year. A huge well done is due to all the riders for a fantastic effort and some outstanding performances. Best of luck to all those who will be at the meetings in September and hope that the infallible triumph of the horses and riders continues.