

Horsham & District Riding Club

Area 13 Dressage to Music Qualifier

LOCATION:	Bridge House, Horsham	DATE:	15 th August 2010
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This is a competition growing in popularity and is a great spectacle for the watching supporters and audience who can appreciate the music and artistic interpretation even if they are not dressage experts. It appeals to riders of all levels and horses and ponies of all shapes and sizes !

We had 3 entries for the novice level freestyle to music competition, in plain clothes (as opposed to fancy dress!) and 1 entered in the elementary.

The novice class is a qualifier for the London and South East Championships which are held in October at Sands Farm. The Elementary class is a qualifier for the national championships which are being held in Liverpool this year !

Novice Freestyle

Debbie Stonard and her lovely chestnut gelding Charlie were Horsham's first pair to go. They did a good routine to some specially prepared upbeat music that suited Charlie's paces, for a score of 62.5%. Next in was Jackie Lambert and her bay mare Hardham Gamebird. Jackie has recently been to Hartpury for the DTM where they came third in the RDA national championships. The music was a medley of toe tapping jazz, which was much appreciated by the audience and they were rewarded with a fine score of 68.9% and second place. Finally Maxine Gayler, temporarily put down the teams clipboard to take part herself. But Rapacity was out of action due to injury, so Ruth Burgess kindly offered her the ride on her mare Red Florin, who has only recently been back in work after 3 years out having a foal. So having only sat on "Flo" on the Tuesday, she was thrown in at the deep end to ride to Rapacity's music – Herb Alpert and Tijuana Brass. But she rose to the occasion and did a lovely calm accurate test to top the scoreboard with 75.8%. (See picture gallery) Congratulations to Jackie and Maxine who qualify for the championships later in the year.

Elementary Freestyle

Liz Lane and Catherstone Lochnivar produced a polished test including leg yield and simple changes across the centre line in the extended 20x60 arena. The music was an interesting, instrumental collection of 1980's rock classics like "Bat out of Hell" and "Africa" which had everyone toe tapping in the audience. A very well deserved score of 66.8% on Lochie's music debut which was good enough for third place in this hotly contested class. Who wanted to go all the way to Liverpool anyway !

This was a really good day of fun and entertainment and made great viewing. The day was organised by Mid Sussex and our thanks to them and Bridge House who made everyone feel very welcome.

Report by
Maxine Gayler