

# Horsham & District Riding Club

## **NATIONAL RIDING CLUBS INDOOR NOVICE TEAM SHOWJUMPING CHAMPIONSHIPS**

<b>LOCATION:</b>	Hartpury	<b>DATE:</b>	14 <sup>th</sup> April 2007
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Yet again we had qualified to represent Area 13 at the National Indoor Championships. The team of Ruth Burgess (Red Florin), Jo Radford Smith (Minita Greenstone), Amanda Millichamp (Ocean Cruise) and Elaine Ticehurst (Matilda) set off for Hartpury on the Friday afternoon in glorious sunshine, with more forecast for the weekend ahead – shame it was an indoor competition !

On arriving at Hartpury, the horses were settled into their lovely stables at the equine college, and then everyone went for a hack around the grounds to give them a leg stretch after their long journey. We all then went off to sample the delights of the local hospitality at the pub.

Saturday morning saw a hive of activity in the stable blocks with over 80 horses competing. There was a last chance to walk the course – 2'9" in the first round, beautifully presented with flowers and sponsors banners everywhere.

Ruth was first to go for us and had a lovely clear round in her first visit to these championships, which gave us a confidence-boosting start. Then Jo followed with the 17 hand Irish Draught Henry - a big lad to get round those tight corners in the indoor school - he had a pole and a refusal at one of the tight turns and with time penalties, a total score of 17. This put the pressure on next to go Amanda Millichamp who was riding in her 3<sup>rd</sup> championships. The experience helped and she too went clear. Last to go in the first round for us was Elaine who is always a reliable "anchor man" and she and Matilda did not disappoint to also go clear. With the best 3 scores to count we went through to the second round with zero, as did 7 other teams.

After lunch the course is changed and the height goes up to 3'. The course looked substantial but fair. This round usually brings the poles tumbling with frequent regularity. Unfortunately for us, this proved the case. Ruth's horse just flattened over the stile and rolled the top pole for 4 faults, Jo had 2 early fences down but then got after Henry to finish much better, for 8 faults, Amanda also had an unlucky brick out of the viaduct wall for 4 faults, and Elaine had an uncharacteristic 3 down for 12 faults. So the team finished on a total score for the 2 rounds of 16, which put us in 12<sup>th</sup> place out of the 22 teams, with Charville taking the honours again with a well deserved win on zero faults after a jump off with West Somerset.