

# Horsham & District Riding Club

## *Hickstead Showjumping Teams*

<b>LOCATION:</b>	Hickstead	<b>DATE:</b>	26 <sup>th</sup> July 2009
<b>Oh so close !</b>			
<p>On the last day of the Royal International Horse Show, Hickstead hosts the National Riding Clubs Teams of 3 showjumping. This is always a very prestigious and popular event and this year there was the maximum 100 riding club teams competing from all over the country.</p> <p>Horsham RC had four teams entered and all were determined to “go for it “ having narrowly missed out on the rosettes last year. One team member jumps at novice level of 2’9”, one jumps at intermediate level 3’ and one jumps open at 3’6”, all against the clock and all three scores to count.</p> <p>The day started early, and you could feel the anticipation and nerves as you walked the course ready for the 8am start ! Lynn Scott and her lovely young grey General Commotion got the club off to a flyer with a clear in 65.2 secs. This was closely followed by brilliant clears from the rest of the novice competitors – Jo Radford Smith and Minita Harlequin, Nikki Roberts (who came out of retirement !) and Colour Code, and the off duty copper – Isabelle Lee and Flynn. After 3 hours and 100 teams Horsham had 4 of the 30 clear rounds.</p> <p>The course was raised to 3’ and the second round commenced. Any clear, under 70 seconds would keep the teams well in the hunt. Sonia Marfleet and Bilwood Tomputt flew round clear in 59.6 secs which was a great boost for everyone’s confidence. Then Jane Silcock and Forever Hopeful went even faster for another clear in 59.6 secs, Katie Roberts, riding her Dad’s hunter, Josh, just clipped the second fence trying to make a tight turn for 4 faults, and Tiffany Tasney and A Good Sort jumped a lovely clear after unfortunately rolling a pole at the first fence.</p> <p>So Horsham were still in a very strong position with two of only seven double clears at this stage out of the 100 teams. The pressure to go fast was a major factor in the lack of clear rounds but Horsham were keeping their nerve ! With the fences now at 3’6”, a fast clear would be invaluable. Ros Head and San Suave Prince safely negotiated the bogey fences at 1 and 2 but kicked out the planks for her team’s only mistake and 4 faults in a very fast time. Lucy Kenward and the ever improving mare Temple Oracle did a lovely flowing round but just clipped the second upright trying to save time, so they also finished a team score of 4 and a good team time. The Gorrige sisters, who had waited patiently for several hours by this stage then completed Horsham’s last two rounds with Anna and Farmers Choice just 4 faults and Lizzie and Bright Future, jumping one of the very rare clears but with time penalties. So these teams finished on 8 and 15 faults.</p> <p>So a fantastic day and after 9 hours of fierce competition Horsham Hooligans narrowly missed out on the trophy, by the narrowest of margins - 3 seconds - to come second to Cambridge RC, with the Horsham Horrors a creditable 4<sup>th</sup>.</p> <p>Report by Max Gayler, Chef d’Equipe</p>			