

Horsham & District Riding Club

London & South East Championships 2007

LOCATION:	Coombelands, Pulborough	DATE:	7 th October 2007
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This was the last of this year's major championship shows for our teams, and again we had been successful in qualifying quite a few teams to represent Area 13 Riding Clubs. Namely, dressage, riding test and horse trials. It was Sussex's turn to host these champs, which rotate around the South East region and we had the benefit of the beautifully presented facilities of Coombelands, which is now a fully fledged British Eventing venue.

Horse Trials

This is a team competition with the best 3 scores out of 4 to count. We had 2 of the successful team that were runners up at the National Championships in August – Maggie Whatford and Liz Pellett, plus Jo Radford Smith and Lucy Lempriere. They all had very good dressage scores and were lying in the top 4 in their respective arenas. All of them except Maggie then went clear showjumping, Ross just tipping a pole for 4 faults, so we went into the cross country section in the lead and we hoped we could make home advantage count ! The course was similar to the BE Intro course used the week before, so unfortunately Jo had to go H/C as she had competed the previous week over the same course. It was a true championship course and many teams had problems at the trakhener, a double of hanging logs, and the coffin in particular. But our 4 all powered around the course clear, but in taking some of the slower routes, Lucy and Jo picked up a few time penalties, which proved decisive. Maggie won her arena, Liz came 2nd and the team came a creditable 7th, behind the winners – Bradbourne.

Horse Trials Team : (team 7th)

Maggie Whatford and Ross the Boss – (indiv 1st)
Lucy Lempriere and Golden Sovereign

Liz Pellet and Zak – (indiv 2nd)
Jo Radford Smith and Minita Greenstone

Dressage

The dressage team members all had to ride the new Novice 20 test, but due to a couple of late injuries we were down to 3 team members, including Louise Wand who gamely came in at the 11th hour and made her debut for Horsham. Laura Durkin rode her lovely 5 year old mare Lady A, who won at the National Championships. Again they did a lovely fluent, accurate test to take 1st place in their arena. Linzi Wiseman rode her Lincoln partner, Webster, who initially objected to the flowers at the arena entrance but then put in another active, flowing test for 5th place individually. And Louise rode her young horse to gain 57% in their first Novice test and that was enough for the team to secure 6th place and get in the rosettes, which was a great result. Berkshire clubs dominated the competition, coming 1st and 3rd, with Ardingly taking 2nd.

Novice Team (team 6th)

Linzie Wiseman and Webster (indiv 5th)
Louise Wand and Lilo Lil

Laura Durkin and Lady A (indiv 1st)

Riding Test

Another competition where the best 3 of 4 team members scores were to count, but again we had been hit by injuries so only fielded a team of 3 with everyone riding Riding Test 7. This is where the rider is judged on their style and technique so it is even more nerve racking than normal dressage ! Up against tough competition, Ros Head came 3rd in her arena, and Claire Worskett and Natasha Morris were just out of the placings, but the team came 8th overall. Newlands Corner taking the honours this year.

Riding Test team (team 8th)

Ros Head and San Sauve Prince (indiv 3rd)
Natasha Morris and Harrison's Pride

Claire Worskett and The Wrong Trousers

Well done to everyone. Most people came home with a rosette or 2. And a big thank you to all members who helped at this event – we really appreciate it !

Report by Max Gayler, Chef D'Equipe