

# Horsham & District Riding Club

## REPORT

### The London and SE Regional Championships

<b>LOCATION:</b>	Mattingly	<b>DATE:</b>	25 <sup>th</sup> September 2011
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7.30am, sunshine and blue sky, what a beautiful day I thought to myself as Oli and I trundled along in my little lorry to Mattingly. A total contrast to the two very soggy qualifying days we had for this event.

Then the phone rang, it was Vicky Allan to tell me her mother-in-law Jan, our club's "Gallop-ing Granny", had broken down on the M3! Oh no, both on our horse trials team! Fortunately Vicky wasn't far away and it was decided that she should rescue Jan and Bobbit whilst I would carry on to explain to the organizers why they would be late. They were very understanding.

I also had to focus on getting our Dressage and Show jumping teams started. After an hour I phoned Vicky for an update. Vicky explained that they were now waiting for the R.A.C to arrive and whilst doing this Vicky had put her hazard lights on only to find they flattened her battery. The Police refused to jump start her Landrover, so now they were both stuck on the M3! Eventually poor Vicky and Jan arrived with their horses after abandoning Jan's lorry at Fleet Services.

I rushed over to the dressage arenas to tell them our riders would be ready in 5 minutes, only to be told the judges had left! O.M.G! at this point I was definitely losing the will to live. With some persuasion the judges were phoned and to my amazement, bless them, they returned and the show did go on. Exactly the same thing happened in the show jumping! Everyone was very kind and a special "Thank you" letter has been sent.

#### **Dressage**

Meanwhile, our Dressage Divas Caroline Exley on Copperfield Iris, Toni Bovis on Fine Cut Isla, Hilary Todd on Bombay Sapphire and Mel Breen on Hotspurs Last Tango were knotching up some good scores. The team finished 5th with Mel and Freddie leading the way on a score of 68% and 2<sup>nd</sup> individual.

#### **Showjumping**

This team included myself on Oli, Jenni York on Blaze who jumped a lovely first round, Denise Pembury on Smurf who sadly had a stop and we decided he wasn't comfortable and withdrew him from the second round. The 4<sup>th</sup> member, Kelly Hounslow on Gypsy, jumped two cracking clear rounds and went through to the jump off. Well done you two, you've got through to all the Championships this year and had a great season.

#### **Horse Trials**

Mandy Hammond on her reliable Ned Kelly, Louise Hamilton on Mr Gigolo, Jan Allan on Ballymore Roberto and Vicky Allan on Razzle Dazzle. Well guess what, after all the trouble getting there the team won! They all put in a sparkling performance with Vicky getting a score of 25 in the dressage. What a lovely note to finish on.

As a condition of entry all the clubs have to provide help on the day. I opted that we put away the show jumps at the end of the competition. John, my husband, went off to get the tractor and trailer. Everyone was standing around waiting for scores to come out and within seconds of us starting to clear fences away 30 other people must have ducked under the fence and helped....another good result. However, I do think our stacking on the trailer may have left a little bit to be desired, heaven help Richard Clapham when he next wants to use them.

**Continued.....**

Carol Porter very kindly spent the afternoon writing for a dressage judge. Carol, you do so much for the Club and that was way behind the call of duty, THANK YOU.

8p.m, trundling home again, what a beautiful day I thought!

For the time being, as John and I have a lot going on next year, I'm handing the reins of Chef D'Equipe over. I have really enjoyed my year. At times I have worried about fitting it all in and had a few late nights in my garden shed. Nothing, however compared to the other passionate committee members who carry on tirelessly, so much goes on behind the scenes. It's a real eye opener, they achieve so much for us as a club.

Pami Nixon  
Chef D'Equipe