

Horsham & District Riding Club

National Riding Club Championships - Seniors

Location: Lincoln Showground

DATE: 17th & 18th Sept 2011

Everyone had a good drive up and we all arrived around the same time. I had given all our 5 Teams and 3 Individual riders exact instructions as to where we were unloading and camping together in the lorry park. The chief parking attendant was not best pleased, but did say Horsham could have their own parking area next year!! Ummm result!!

Lincoln Showground is enormous and stunning with its neatly clipped hedges around the arenas, each with their own warm up areas. Once sorted with I.D checks etc. everyone tacked up and went for a ride round the grounds. Sam Gates and her mum Sue had their work cut out with 2 horses and poor Sam was not at all well, so strong was her team spirit, that she still came.

Back at base camp Ian, Jenni York's dad, was on BBQ duty and he did a great job. Tif was in charge of wine ??? The chit chat started off well, which were the best lines to ride, how long it would take to get to the dressage etc, etc. The wine helped settle the nerves, well it must have, as the next morning West Surrey R.C. who were camped nearby said we were making a lot of noise !!!!!

B.R.C. asked us to do our bit and provide help with a Dressage steward in the morning and SJ writer in the afternoon. Laura Gordon's mum, Julie, very kindly offered to do the morning stint and Sam, Jenni's sister and Libby who came to help Jane offered to do the afternoon –THANK YOU. Alice who came with Isobel was made "official team photographer" - well she does have a degree in it !

Everyone was up early, Nik and Jez were an impressive team all by themselves! Nik arrived at the stables looking very hunky wearing a Bob the Builder hip belt which had Neo's plaiting needles etc in it. Jez, having walked Pip their dog, "set to" around the place, so tidy and organised! Young Libby helped Kellie her mum. Claire had her usual support team Tom and Charlotte.

Style & Show Jumping

We had an interesting day of competition with a few surprises, thrills and spills. Sam was feeling really rough but still carried on. Poor Louie, A.J.s "boy", was kicked by a passing horse! Fortunately no serious damage, but we did call the on-call vet just for peace of mind. Louie went on to gain 100% in the Style jumping and his Intermediate team were 8th! Tif and my Oli also gained 94% in the Style jumping. Sadly the rest of the Team, Denise Pembury on Smurf and Isobel Lee on Flynn had stops.

Our Intermediate SJ Team, Claire Hamshaw on Marshalls Law, Sonia Marfleet on Bilward Tom Putt, AJ on Lucifers Star and Sam Gates on Footman Franke finished 8th Well Done!

Our original Open Team were unable to come complete as Jane Silcock's Temple Oracle and Rachel Morley's Back in Action sadly are out of action. Penny Tanebourne and her FANTASTIC mare Cantle Meikle Lady, who would jump a house if you asked her, ran as individuals and came 10th.

Dressage

Our Dressage teams also did well. Senior Novice, Denise Pembury on Smurf, Tiff Tasney on Oli, Isobel Lee on Flynn and Kellie Hounslow on Gypsey finished 8th.

Jane Silcock on Forever Hopeful was 7th in the Senior Riding Test.

Our Open Dressage team Nic Hedges on Atila Van T Berkenhof was 10th, Jane on Forever Hopeful was 8th and Laura Gordon on Condie Nelson was 7th

Laura and Julie were going home to visit Laura's father who is in hospital, we wish him well and tired, we all went home ...some with rosettes, some not, however, all enriched by the experience.
Thank you, all of you and your beautiful horses !

Report by Pami Nixon, Chef D'Equipe.