

Horsham & District Riding Club

British Riding Clubs National Championships

LOCATION:	Lincoln	DATE:	6 th September 2008
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Three teams just pipped at the post !

Following on from the recent success at Offchurch, where the club won the national horse trials championships, Horsham had qualified four teams, a pairs and several individuals to represent Area 13 at the national riding club championships for dressage and show jumping. This is a huge event with over a thousand competitors travelling to the Lincolnshire showground from all over the country from as far a field as Scotland, Devon and Ireland. This year it was touch and go if they would even take place as people arrived in torrential rain with the rest of the country on flood alert!

Dressage

The novice dressage team was a mixture of experience and first timers. Anchor man - Helen Millichamp and "Arkweld" performed a beautiful flowing test to win their arena, Caroline Exley came second in her arena. Caroline was a late "super - sub" and thanks go to Carol Bealey - Williams for the loan of her lovely welsh cob - "Copperfield Reuben". Kathryn Brown rode a very calm test on her new ride - "Lucy Locket" for 8th place individually, and Linzi Wiseman completed the team with her coloured cob "Webster". The teams consistency was good enough to give them a well deserved 3rd place overall.

Ros Head and "San Sauve Prince" and Liz Lane and "Catherston Lochnivar" both competed as individuals in the open dressage competition but were unplaced.

The Riding Test team, were in even better form. Horsham had four very experienced combinations representing the club, with two riding test 7 - a novice level test and two riding test 9 - elementary level. They all rode lovely calm, rhythmical tests and were just pipped to the post, for a fantastic team 2nd place. Congratulations to Ros Head, Helen Millichamp who came 2nd in her arena, Gill Brown on "Vino", who came 5th and Liz Lane was 9th.

Horsham pairs of Marilyn Turner and Carolyn Exley rode the matching pair of liver chestnut Welsh Cobs, bred by Marilyn - "Copperfield Graffiti" and "Copperfield Reuben". The standard was very high and they were just outside the top 10, having performed a good test with plenty of interest in the choreography.

Show Jumping

The Intermediate team competition consists of four riders over two rounds, with the best three scores in each round to count. In the first round fences were at 1m, with a double and treble and some very brightly coloured jumps including one with wings like a volcano! The ground was still very good at this stage, despite torrential rain on the previous day. There were very few clear rounds and everyone in the team jumped well to put us into the second round on a total of only 8 faults, so still very much in contention. The second round took place after lunch with fences being raised to 1.05m and water trays and spooky fillers adding to the challenge already being created by the return of the heavy rain. Unfortunately the ground soon deteriorated and good horses were getting cricket scores in the deepening mud. Helen Millichamp and "Arkweld" had an uncharacteristic four down, Ros and Mandy Hammond on "Ballin Queen" had two each and Jane Silcock just had the one fence but "Temple Oracle" took a dislike to the water tray, on route to another fence and ended with a disappointing 13 time

penalties. So Horsham's two round total was 36 which put them out of the placings.

However the same team, with Jane riding her less experienced horse "Forever Hopeful" also contested the Style jumping competition. This was a one round competition over a slightly smaller course where the rider is judged on their riding ability. Here the team were in great form with four clear rounds, and displayed their expertise and style to the full to take a well deserved 2nd place behind the New Forest Riding Club.

Congratulations to all team members who rode so well in testing conditions and often torrential rain. Everyone got home in the early hours of Sunday morning – elated with their collection of rosettes, if not a bit soggy !