

Horsham & District Riding Club

National Riding Club Horse Trials Championships

LOCATION:	Offchurch	DATE:	3 rd , 4 th , 5 th August 2007
------------------	-----------	--------------	---

Results Report

What a weekend !

After the initial doubt as to whether these championships would actually run – given the floods in the Gloucestershire area, we were treated to weekend temperatures in the 30's and perfect “ going “ at this glorious venue.

The organisers had worked wonders following the torrential rain that had plagued the venue in the previous 2 weeks, to rearrange the cross country course and move all the temporary stabling, that houses the 400 plus horses, to higher ground. The only casualty to this 2/3 day event was the loss of the steeplechase and phase C roads and tracks.

We had a Novice team, consisting of Amanda and Helen Millichamp, Liz Pellett and Maggie Whatford, and for the first time for a number of years, we also had an Open team qualified – Mandy Hammond, Simon Leadbetter, Sarah Bowe, and Jane Silcock.

The **Open team** do a full 3-day event, with an initial vet check and dressage, roads and tracks and XC, then a trot up followed by showjumping. The team all had reasonable dressage scores around the 40 mark, then to the XC course which was HUGE ! Mandy and Simon both went clear but had quite a few time penalties, and Sarah and Jane both got home with just one stop each plus time penalties. This was an achievement in itself as some teams didn't even get 3 riders completing the course and were therefore eliminated at this stage. All horses then passed the final day trot up and looked immaculate. Jane and Simon then completed lovely clear rounds showjumping and Sarah and Mandy just rolled one pole each. The team finished their first 3-day event on a team score (best 3 riders to count) of 263.7 penalties, to finish 8th of the 13 teams taking part. East Cheshire won it on 153.8 penalties. Simon came 7th individually.

The **Novice team** do a 2-day event, with dressage and showjumping, followed by roads and tracks and XC. Amanda and Maggie had been here last year but it was the first time for Helen and Liz, even so we had high hopes as they were a very experienced and capable quartet - We were not to be disappointed !

We thought they could all do a good dressage test and the scores proved it with 3 of them scoring in the low 30's and Maggie had a great start with a score of 25. In the showjumping, Maggie and Liz both rolled a pole but the Millichamp family all went clear ! That left the team lying a very handy 4th placed over night to Ardingly who were in the lead. XC country day dawned with clear blue skies and an air of expectation. Amanda was the trailblazer and did a great job getting round XC clear with 12 time penalties. Helen then went clear, flat out on her little chestnut thoroughbred and came home with 5 seconds to spare – to complete on her dressage score. Liz then completed with just one run out at the double of chairs, plus a few time penalties. And Maggie had to go clear to keep us in with a shout. Ross is so reliable having finished 4th here last year. He completed clear, just 2 seconds outside the optimum time, despite Maggie having to take the longer route at a couple of the options. We knew we were in with a chance of being in the top 3 although Harewood ,from Yorkshire, were well out in front with 3 of their 4 riders completing on their dressage scores to finish on a team score of 87.1. After a nail biting wait it was confirmed we had moved up into 2nd place, finishing on a score of 111.8 penalties, narrowly beating South Warwicks into 3rd by 0.2 penalties, with Ardingly in 4th out of the 26 teams taking part. In addition Maggie and Helen had finished 2nd individually in their arenas to round off a great weekend's sport.

A mounted presentation followed plus a few glasses of bubbly, before the trip home !

Max Gayler,
Chef D'Equipe