

R.C. NATIONAL HORSE TRIALS CHAMPIONSHIPS at Aston le-walls 7-9th August 2009

Report by Libby Powell

We arrived at Aston-le-walls in pouring rain in Thursday afternoon. The organisers were extremely concerned about the ground and we couldn't believe how much it rained up until the early hours of Friday morning. After that we had glorious sunshine but slopped around in mud and wellies until we left on Sunday.

In the dressage, it was a shock to see Jane's horse enter down the centre line and then go to bolt - something he has never done before! The cross country course was modified and the first water complex was taken out because of the adverse weather conditions. We walked Phases A and D together in the evening sunshine on Friday. Anna jumped clear and Sam, Lucy and Jane each had an unfortunate stop.

On Sunday the show jumping was held on a surface due to the ground conditions and was run in reverse order. Lucy and Jane both redeemed themselves jumping lovely clear rounds and Sam and Anna unfortunately both had a pole down at the penultimate fence, fence 9.

It was such a shame that the venue was changed from the undulating ground at Offchurch to the very flat going at Aston-le-walls, but despite this and all the rain, everyone had a great time and the sense of team spirit and camaraderie was excellent.

INTERMEDIATE TEAM MEMBERS (Position in their respective arenas after dressage):

Sam Gates (Trojans Turn) 38.1 (11th) Anna Gorringe (Farmer's Choice) 34.3 (6th)

Lucy Kenward (Temple Oracle) 39 (21st) Jane Silcock (Forever Hopeful) 49.5 (24th)

OPEN INDIVIDUAL: Mandy Hammond (Ballin Queen) 41.9 (12th)

OVERALL RESULT (Total penalties & position in their respective arenas):

Sam 62.9, 11th; Anna 44.3, 11th; Lucy 59.0, 18th; Jane 79.9, 20th. Individual: Mandy 41.9, 12th