

Horsham & District Riding Club

Area 13 DRESSAGE TEAMS QUALIFIER

LOCATION:	Kirdford	DATE:	18 th May 2008
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What a great day ! We had 6 teams competing for qualification for either the London and South East Championships or the National Riding club Championships. This qualifying competition was hosted by Rudgewick RC, and held at the much improved venue in Kirdford, with 6 grass arenas beautifully prepared and presented and we were blessed with perfect weather!

We have always done well at this event historically but this year the competition was of a higher standard and there were more local teams competing so it was going to be tough.

National Championships Qualifiers

Our **Novice dressage** team put up a fine performance and won convincingly, qualifying for the Lincoln Championships. Well done to Marilyn Turner who brought Senti out of retirement to prove he had not lost any of his enthusiasm and scored 72.08% for first place in their arena. Helen Millichamp and Ark Weld scored a great win in their arena on 70.42%, and Linzi Wiseman and Webster came 2nd in their arena and Becky Middleton, making her teams debut also got placed 5th.

Our **Riding Test** team also won their section and again will now go to Lincoln for the National championships. Helen gained another red rosette and a brilliant score of 78%, Ros Head and San Sauve Prince individual 3rd on 71 %. Liz Lane also winning her arena with 68% and Gill Brown on 60.5%.

The **Pairs** competition was poorly supported but Marilyn and Caroline Exley riding two well matched liver chestnuts that Marilyn had bred – Copperfield Graffiti and Copperfield Rheuben – were a great sight, performing a freestyle test in perfect harmony to take the qualifying slot for the national championships with a score of 65.71%.

The **Open dressage** team had a tough battle with the West Sussex RC team who were matching their scores all the way. In this competition three riders do a different novice test and one rider does an elementary test. West Sussex won the elementary, and Petra Coughlin was second, Ros won the novice 30 and they came 3rd, They won the Novice 27 and Gill came 3rd, and Liz won the novice 20 and they came 2nd, resulting in a tie, if you take the best 3 scores and even after taking into account the fourth riders score, all was level. We then had to resort to the rule book to work out who had won! Unfortunately we lost by the narrowest of margins as the collective marks for all four riders were compared, so well done to West Sussex who take the qualifying slot, and we came a very commendable 2nd.

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London and South East Qualifiers

Our **Novice dressage** team had the toughest section with ten teams competing for a place at the regional championships. Many of the team were representing the club for the first time and nerves were playing a part so I suggested “rescue remedy “ but they preferred to get the alcohol out ! It was a good attempt with the team eventually coming 4th, Linda Hulme and Catherston Georgette were 2nd individually and Teresa Lavender and Popapicolina came 3rd. Also well done to our other two combinations – Pam Nixon and her lovely grey Oliver and Anne Cavagnulo and her coloured cob Woody.

The **Riding Test** team, all riding RT 6, had a successful day and won their section to qualify for the championships thanks to winning performances from Helen Millichamp and Ros Head, and ably supported by Teresa, individual 5th and Claire Limmer and Touch of Blarney, making her teams debut , individual 6th.

So 4 wins, and 2nd and a 4th – not bad eh !

Congratulations to everyone who took part, overcame the nerves and performed brilliantly. If you were in a winning team please make a note in your diaries of the championships dates .

National Championships at Lincoln on Friday/Saturday 5/6th Sept.

London and South East Championships Sunday 5th October at Vicarage Farm, Sunbury.

Report by Max Gayler, Chef E’duipe