

Dressage Team Report

Our preparations for Sheepgate began in early April with four music, six Jane Peberdy and two Riding Test practices on the calendar during the 8 weeks prior to the Area 16 Qualifier. We were blessed with our now 'expected' good weather for the Jane Peberdy sessions and I must say, I never tire watching Jane teach you. Your improvements were captured on my video for several of you and we will continue to benefit from her instruction throughout the rest of the year. Sue McGrath is one of a very small number of Riding Test judges nationally, and how fortunate we are that she is a member of Rearsby Lodge and ran two very valuable sessions in the fortnight before Sheepgate. Jane Carruthers was able to inspire ten individuals and two pairs to compete in the music classes in which Rearsby outnumbered and outshone the other clubs.

Sheepgate is a superb dressage venue and what a joy this year to be able to ride the music outdoors in the 20x60 arena. Whilst the larger arena may make practice more difficult, it does give so many more options for the freestyle movements. The organising club North Lincs have a well tried formula and they are to be congratulated on coping efficiently with the huge entry that this qualifier generates – 32 senior teams, 9 junior teams and 18 music entries. North Lincs were also very helpful with our day before substitutions, when Cheryl Billson had to withdraw both her horses having been affected by the hard ground, and what superb results these subs enjoyed. It's never too late!

Thirty two members represented Rearsby in seven senior teams, three junior teams and music at the Area 16 Summer Dressage Qualifier on 13th June, riding in total 56 tests. Sadly the day was marred before 9am when Tina Berridge was disqualified over Molly's flu vac, in spite of it being checked by myself weeks before. This situation is just awful and I am so proud that Tina was positive, put it behind her and made much of the surroundings to 'educate' her young horse ready for next year. However fate had not finished dealing its cruel hand, as later on we discovered Tina's sister, Julie Armstrong, had been removed from the scoreboard in error and so the team scores had to be re-calculated! Finally in the afternoon Julie discovered her music cd would not play and thankfully the judge agreed for Tina to park her car by the arena and turn the volume to max! We won't forget Sheepgate 2010 for some time!

The first scores to come in were the Senior Riding Test with a notable win in RT13 for Andrea Beattie on Cranswick's Mon E'Clair. Andrea had given the ride on her 'old' horse to mum, Anette Whitehouse, and was supposed to be the groom at Sheepgate. However the chance to take a substitution entry was too tempting and Andrea packed her jods for an early morning test and subsequent ticket to Lincoln. Andrea is no stranger to Lincoln, having ridden the mare there several times when she rode for Rearsby juniors. Jayne Walker also took a substitution entry and rode Heather Fry's Conker into 3rd place in RT13, just 3 marks behind Andrea. Kate Hollin was delighted with her 5th place in RT11 and along with Kate Leonard 6th in RT13, the Rearsby Reapers team with Andrea, two Kates and Francesca Bull was 2nd. The Rearsby Retrievers team of Jayne Walker, Charlotte Barker and Becca Smith was 6th.

Sorting out the Senior Novice teams was a nightmare for the team manager. Looking at previous results was no help as everyone regularly scored well at our club shows! The Sheepgate results put our three teams 2nd, 3rd and 6th out of 14 teams. Unfortunately only the first placed team go to Lincoln but we should not be disappointed – the result shows what quality we have in numbers at this Prelim level. I believe the opportunity to compete throughout the year at the club shows organised by Liz Atkins is the secret behind all our riders scoring over 61% – thank you Liz. Although they don't award individual rosettes, Kate Leonard was 2nd in her arena on 70%, Julie Armstrong 3rd on 65% and Becky Littlefield 2nd on 66% and 4th on 64% (with the 2nd place horse being a substitution entry!). The Rearsby Runaways team (Julie Armstrong, Kate Leonard, Claire Atkins and Di Littlefield)

was 2nd, Rearsby Roadrunners (Charlotte Barker, Becky Littlefield, Sarah Mann and Heather Fry) was 3rd and Rearsby Running Wild (Kate Hollin, Becky Littlefield and Jules Johnson) was 6th.

The Senior Open was dominated by East Midlands Dressage Group taking 1st and 3rd places. Rearsby Reconditioned (Henry Dove, Joe Davey, Anette Whitehouse and Jane Carruthers) was placed 4th with individual 3rd for Joe, 5th for Henry and 6th for Anette. Our second team Rearsby Remodelled (Liz Buxton, Di Poyser, Claire Diamond and Hilary Bowerman) was not placed but all had second tests to ride later on. Henry also took another 5th rosette in the Medium 61, which is for individuals only, and if you think Novice is hard and Elementary is tough, then Medium is very demanding. Well done Henry to accept the challenge and remember the test.

The Juniors rode in the afternoon, starting with their Riding Test, and how incredible that we had a repeat of the Seniors' success! Beatrice O'Kelly secured her place at Lincoln on Highmead Politician by winning RT11 with a fantastic score of 76%, and Chloe Gunn on Oaklawn Gypsy was 3rd with 68%. The team of Beatrice, Katie Pearson, Eva Carrier and Felicity Scott (at her first Rearsby team competition) were 3rd. While the Juniors were riding their dressage tests, the dressage to music had started outdoors, and fortunately the ponies did not appear to be concerned by the noise. However Katie Pearson and Thomas did decide to retire which meant that the Rearsby Rising Stars with Katie, Eva and Felicity was a man down and not able to be placed. The Rearsby Riding High team (Teri Rudkin, Beatrice O'Kelly, Chloe Gunn and Hope Bull) was just beaten into 2nd place by North Lincs who had also beaten the girls at the Winter qualifier at Hargate. Individually Teri and Lord Blake won P12 with 69%; Beatrice was 4th in P12 with 67% and Chloe Gunn 2nd in N24 with 69%. On the day we knew Teri and Chloe had secured a Lincoln ticket, but subsequently Rearsby Riding High have been invited to compete as a team at Lincoln – so we just have to make sure it is our turn to beat North Lincs there!

Four senior members decided to have a go at the Pairs Dressage and no one was more surprised than Anette Whitehouse and Claire Diamond that they had won with 66%, a second Lincoln ticket for Cranswick's Mon E'Clair. Runners up Di and Becky Littlefield on 63% were more than pleased considering the small amount of practice they had been able to do following an injury to one of the horses.

And so to the Dressage to Music. Liz Buxton rode a brilliant toe tapping test to Beatles tunes into 2nd place in the Elementary, sadly for Liz the East Midlands Dressage Group winner was a stunning horse which had qualified for the BD Nationals. The Novice (with dressage points) was won by Jane Carruthers and she will take the 'It Takes Two' routine to Aintree in October. Di Poyser was 3rd with her Irish dance music. The Novice (without dressage points) was quite eventful for Caroline Harvey's Oscar, Francesca Bull's Sparky and Becca Smith's Ernie. What did they see through the hedgerow? Claire Atkins was 6th with her Abba routine scoring 99, Becca Smith's Ernie charmed the judge and was 5th with The Jacksons on 101, and Julie Armstrong's Showwaddawaddy (played from the car) was 4th on 103. North Lincs were 3rd, but Rearsby were both winners and runner up on 111 and 107 marks. Jane Wisher with Constant Star won with Glenn Miller and Jules Johnson with Golden Date were 2nd using TV themes, and both these ladies are heading for Aintree in October. The final class of the day was the Pairs Music and again Rearsby were clear winners with Becca Smith and Hilary Bowerman scoring 72% with their perfectly rehearsed 007 routine. Jane Wisher and Caroline Harvey were 3rd with 65% and a much more settled Oscar! We wish Becca and Hilary lots of luck at Aintree too.

I would like to thank all our team riders and their helpers for being such a credit to Rearsby Lodge at Sheepgate - all the horses and ponies were impeccably turned out and looked very smart with the club badges on their saddle cloths. We had the most delicious picnic to share, and I am so pleased

that every Rearsby rider took home an Area 16 rosette – that is quite an achievement for 32 people! Thank you team for the gift voucher to spend at my favourite shop and the lovely multi-coloured roses on my return from holiday – it was a pleasure to see you all enjoying your membership of Rearsby Lodge in the way BRC promote the organisation “**Ride Together. Train Together. Compete Together. Have Fun Together!**” to which I will add my personal “**Share Stress Together**”

The next few weeks will see the Lincoln and Aintree championships closely followed by the Area 16 Winter Dressage Qualifier on 31st October at The Northern Racing School, Doncaster DN11 0HN (actually I think Sheepgate would be nearer!). We want to send 2 Junior and 3 Senior teams where two riders each ride P18 and N24 in a team. Please let me know if you are interested/and can get to Doncaster. Over the winter months I will arrange more Jane Peberdy sessions for you and would like to promote the Pairs Dressage and Riding Test by having separate practices/training to get you started in these competitions which are specific to BRC only. And don't forget to enter the dressage show on 17th October, it is the first of our four winter shows with a new points accumulator running.

Annette Gibson

Tel: 07734 980735

Email: annette_gibson@msn.com