

Senior Dressage Team Report - Doncaster

Rearsby fielded three senior and two junior teams at the Area 16 Winter Dressage 2011 Qualifier on 31st October at The Northern Racing School, Doncaster. The distance had sadly deterred some members from coming forward, but instead their talents were put to good use running the club Halloween Show Jumping Show at Brooksby on the same day. We also missed the superb partnership of Kate Leonard and Hidden Diamond due to Dillon's exuberant behaviour in the field, which always seems to coincide with the clocks changing, and coming in lame. Luckily Julie Preston with Glidawn Eddie was able to fill the space having recovered from her back strain, but carrying the warning 'I haven't been able to practice so I won't be any good!' One of the easiest tasks for the team manager is to decide on team names and following the theme of the day we chose, Harrys, Hermiones, Hogwarts, Owls and Newts with our thanks to J K Rowling.

Doncaster felt like a real family party for me. I travelled with Claire & Liz Atkins (mum and daughter), Di Poyser & Georgina Sim (mum and daughter) were already there tacking up when we arrived. And our warm congratulations go to George who is expecting her second baby next April. Anna Barradell and Josie (mum and daughter again); Julie Armstrong & sister Tina Berridge; Jules Johnson with husband Steve, Sarah Mann with husband George, Sophie Gallagher with her dad, Julie Preston and her husband – it must have been the mention of Liz Atkins bringing cakes that brought the men out – and rightly so, they were very yummy! From what I can remember the day just flew past, as soon as one team had finished warming up and ridden tests, the next were already mounted and warming up. It needed the three of us to keep tabs on you all and read tests.

At the judges coffee break the Rearsby Harrys team of Georgina Sim, Di Poyser, Jules Johnson and Sarah Mann were in the lead out of the first 6 teams – very exciting! We couldn't follow the scores further until the end of the competition when they were all posted at once. The scorers have to split the results into rider 1, rider 2, rider 3 and rider 4 as per the declaration forms (not necessarily the same order as the entry forms and scoreboard!) to calculate the team places. Rearsby Harrys had Jules 2nd, Sarah 4th, Georgina 5th and Di 13th giving them a team score of 11 and 4th place rosettes. Rearsby Hermiones had Tina Berridge 4th, Julie (I won't be any good) Preston 3rd (and the highest placed Rearsby rider in N24), Hazel Palmer 9th and Sophie Gallagher 8th giving them a team score of 15 and 6th place rosettes. The Rearsby Hogwarts had Joe Davey 1st, Julie Armstrong 1st, Jane Carruthers 3rd and Anna Barradell 7th giving them a team score of 5 which tied with 2010 winners Rutland. In this situation the score of the fourth rider is taken and Anna Barradell's 7th gave the Hogwarts the red rosettes and ticket to Hartpury for the Winter Championships next April 2/3.

What an achievement for Rearsby that all our three teams were placed in the top six out of the sixteen teams competing. Amazing, just amazing and to quote the Strictly judges 'the best they have done so far'. Well done all of you and thanks for such a memorable day.

Annette Gibson