

Area 12 Competitions

Round Up

Hi Everyone

Im really sorry for the delay in updating you all on how our Senior and Junior teams have done so far in the Area 12 competitions but I have given you a little run down below, happy reading...

Kingston Maurwood Senior Winter Dressage Qualifiers

On 17 January, the seniors took part in the annual winter dressage qualifiers, we took one senior team, consisting of Sophie Hall, Natasha Prankered and Christine Wait.

The weather was a lot kinder to us this year, but the day was still hectic. Sophie was our first team member to go, and although she went in the arena with her head screwed on, I think Tammy screwed her head off, she certainly did not give Sophie the best ride, she was spooking at the lorries and trailers going past the arena and then there were horses bucking, rearing and going completely ballistic in the warm up arena so unfortunately Sophie had a job on her hands keeping Tammy relaxed. Well done to Sophie though who continued the test, but I cant really write what she said once she had left the arena.....Next to go was Natasha in the indoor arena, she did a lovely test considering Flynn is more a event horse, he really did well, the canter was a little sharp and you could see Natasha pulling him back out of the eye of the judge (well that's what we thought) the judge did pick up on the advanced canter...but again well done as its not an easy thing to do in the indoor arena due to the noise...Our last team member was Christine Wait, who amazed us all with just walking round

for her warm up...with baited breath we sat to watch her test knowing that she had not warmed up much, but oh my god... she obviously knows her horse very well as they did a super test, and it showed in her score, she actually came 7th individual in Novice 27. Our team were not placed but the hard work that everyone put in over the winter and the commitment that they give to our club is always appreciated, so well done...

Wellbeck Equestrian Centre Junior Winter Dressage Qualifiers

On 14 February it was the turn of the Juniors, and our club were actually running this event, so both Sarah and I were there very early along with Trish, making sure that everything was presentable for when people started to arrive. All stewards were in place, clip boards in hand, judges and area steward were ready and the car park was beginning to fill, although our car park attendants were getting a little bit of stick with people not liking where they were asked to park, and one person said that she was going to report us to health and safety because of where we parked her...so all in all a very good start, I could of easily hung myself..and this is before the competition has even started.

Anyway, our junior team consisted of Yazz Mills, Rebecca Eccles, Ginny Whales and Rebecca Turner, poor Bex had to drag her 4 year old baby in from the field (poor thing had to be washed....) and start doing some dressage on him as she had sold her other dressage horse the week before, so the poor thing had to be plaited, washed, and made to look like an advanced dressage horse in a few hours, but then to be honest we do like to live close to the edge at all times..

Yazz was first to go in the team with Talk-Talk, again, TT is more an event horse so dressage is her least favoured event, but the training that Yazz has been doing over the winter has certainly paid off as they both done a lovely test, and she was chuffed to bits with her, next to go was Bex on her young 4 year old, Aramis has never stepped foot into a arena before and to see judges in the box and flower pots everywhere blew his mind, BUT, she done a lovely test, she percervied even though Aramis decided to do the can-can across the arena and then the boogie men were going to jump out on him behind the flowers, by this time you could see Bex was getting a little annoyed so pushed him on to finish the test, a special well done

has to be given to her because this poor horse was busily minding his own business in his field and was then dragged in to do a dressage test, so well done.

After lunch was Ginny riding Kevin, Ginny also done a lovely test, Kevin is a very good dressage horse, although he decided to try and do flying changes across the diagonal so Ginny had to work hard to keep him on the right leg, but it was a lovely test and Ginny came 3rd as individual so well done. Our last team member was Rebecca Turner, it was really good to see her back in the teams with her lovely Kocoona. Luckily Rebecca managed to complete her test before the rain started to come down, and again it was a lovely test to watch and Rebecca came 10th as individual for the club, so well done.

All in all each rider, although some of them had their problems, they all done a lovely test and we certainly held our own. The juniors came 6th overall in the team event, and both Sarah and I were really pleased with this result, considering SWDG had brought 3 teams with them, they really did not want us to win again this year...

Pontispool Senior and Junior Winter Show Jumping

With the original show jumping date being cancelled due to the snow, unfortunately the new date caused a few problems, one being the juniors, one horse only had three legs, one rider only had the use of one leg, which brought us down to two riders which unfortunately it was a team event anyway so they could not even go as an individual, so the decision was made by all remaining members and their parents to withdraw. Which left the Senior team.

Our Senior team consisted of Xanthe Smith, Natasha Prankered, David Hall (due to Sophie being away on holiday) and Alisha Clyst. On Friday I had a call from Alisha stating that she had fallen off of her horse so was unable to ride, so that took us down to three members, but we still gave it a go.

The warm up arena was a health and safety hazard, there were too many horses in there and we felt it was unsafe for our team to even enter the arena, so they decided to warm up on the grass, not the best option but 18 horses to fight with in the warm up and jump was too much for some of the horses in the team. Poor Dave who volunteered to take Sophie's place had not jumped in 8 years but Sophie said it would do him good....

First to go was Xanthe on Miss Ellie who completed a lovely 1st clear round with just 4 faults in the second round although she was not happy with it as you could hear her cursing over fence 4??? next was Natasha on Flynn, again he loves his jumping and loves speed, two nice tidy rounds with 4 faults in the first and 4 in the second, and last but certainly not least was Dave who considering has not jumped in 8 years, jumped the first 4-5 jumps lovely but then Tammy decided she did not want to jump the next one, and poor Dave ended up over her head, over the jump and with Tammy's bridal in hand, he just sat there, looked up at her and laughed, we rushed in as Tammy decided to take off by galloping around the arena, so I was shouting whether any one had any polo's, which thankfully one nice person did, as soon as Tammy sore the minty treat she soon came over and then Dave was able to replace the bridal. I would like to thank Arthur for his nice kind words.....NOT.....

After the horses had finished and they were cared for we all went into the 'Halls' horse box to participate in a well deserved cup of tea and coffee and some lovely birthday cake as it was Andea's birthday, so we managed to find a candle for her to blow out.

A hard day, but a lot of thanks go to all members who have taken part in all of the events so far, we really do appreciate them taking part in team or individual events for the Riding Club. Thank you all and look forward to seeing you at more events during the year.

Kind Regards

Claire and Sarah xx