

Report for Area Dressage Great Witchingham - 3rd August 2013

Bright eyed and bushy tailed after a week of Pony Club Camp and an outrageously early start, our Novice dressage riders all assembled at the crack of dawn at Great Witchingham.

The team performed really well in the warm-up tests; Nikki Hart was just pipped into second place in her arena and Rebecca Chapple achieved third place in hers. Annabelle Molyneaux performed a good test but was just outside of the ribbons (saving her best for later!). In the Novice Area test Nikki Hart performed a fabulous test and came second in her arena - for a while we were hopeful that she may have qualified for Nationals but it was not to be (a real shame Nikki but there is always next year!). Annabelle also pulled off a super test putting her into 3rd place in her arena. Rebecca also did a good test but this judge placed her mid field (16th). Sarah Frogley also did a super test and like Rebecca, she was placed mid field (15th) in her arena. Daisy Robinson made an impressive debut at Area Dressage achieving a very respectable 59%.

Unfortunately, our Novice team were not placed because of a mix-up regarding eligibility for all to compete at Novice but they would have come 4th (great result girls - you were brilliant!). I feel that ponies, parents and riders also deserve a special award for endurance - it took SIX AND A HALF HOURS for test scores to be available for the Novice riders.

After the luxury of a good lie-in after Camp (sorry Novice Team!) we battled the A11 to get there with half an hour to spare. The horses were disbelieving and couldn't believe they were being dragged out yet again after a hard week at Camp. Abi Scott performed an accurate, rhythmical and very relaxed warm-up test - the Judge said they were "very easy on the eye!" - and she won in her arena (wow!). Alex Kingdon performed a "Violet Elizabeth" warm-up test.....when she was good she was very very, good (9) and when she was bad she was horrid (4) - even so, she managed to come 4th in her arena with the judge saying "Carefully ridden and keep at it 'coz I want to see you in the future!!" In the actual Area Tests both girls did Soham proud too.

Abi performed yet another relaxed and accurate test and if anything, they looked even better than in the warm-up. This time Abi was just out of the ribbons coming 7th in her arena - an excellent achievement. Alex performed a more consistent test than in the warm-up and right up to presentation time it looked like she was going to win. Unfortunately, 71.38% just wasn't quite enough and right at the last minute she was nudged into 3rd place in her arena by two very late entries onto the scoreboard (as the presentation ceremony started!). Like Nikki, she narrowly missed qualifying for the Championships which was a shame.....still, there is always next year.

Many thanks to Sandra and Mark for the tea and picnic and to Kathy Stringer for her support and for sorting us out. We had a lovely day (considerably shorter in length than the Novice team).

For all the results go to:

<http://branches.pcuk.org/area8/latest-news-and-results/>

Diane Kingdon and Kathy Stringer