

AREA 17 DRESSAGE TO MUSIC QUALIFIER 26TH MAY 2008

Well where shall I start? The weather – terrible! The warm up area – like a water complex at a cross-country course, and it rained and rained and rained. One of the junior Mums said “it could have been worse” – I asked how, she said – “we could be camping”! I also got a text at 7.00am from Sarah, which just said “Drowning to Music?” She wasn’t wrong!

All the good bits now, our Senior and Junior competitors were wonderful. The Junior competitors were: Jess Bundy, Alice Walker, Justine Gwynn, Tasha Harris, Sam Bray, Izzy Brice and Sophie Harris. There were 13 children in the Junior DTM, so our 7 members were a significant part of the class. Every test was polished and well ridden, all the ponies were beautifully turned out and the results fabulous.

An extra “well done” to **Alice Walker** (2nd) and **Tasha Harris** (4th) who were both placed in the top six, with all our young members scoring between 57 % 66%.

Alice will be representing us for the second time in the National Finals at Addington in October, so we wish her luck for that too and I will let you know how she gets on.

The first class of the day was the **Senior Pairs**, in which Kimberley Mcdougall & Kate Harris, and Lesley & Lynn Carter both rode two smashing tests, resulting in **Kimberley** and **Kate** being awarded 3rd place. In the **Senior Novice** (no points) our riders were Aly Burgess, Leanne Lacey, Jane Porter, Lesley Carter, Patricia Springate & Karina Bell, in a class of over 20 competitors; **Lesley** was 5th and **Trish** 6th!! Whilst unfortunately Leanne had to retire Jet, Aly, Jane and Karina all scored over 65%.

The final class of the day for our riders was the Senior Novice (with points), in which Sarah Bray and Claire Stockton competed on our behalf, **Sarah** was placed 3rd with 70% and Claire also rode a beautiful test scoring 66.1%.

As you can see from these scores, the standard was extremely high and even more of a credit to the club is that most of our members who competed had never ridden Dressage to Music test before!

Finally a huge thank you to all the junior children and parents who tirelessly worked towards this competition, to Denise Hallion for working with our riders, and all our senior competitors for providing such well rehearsed and competent performances on what was a wonderful day for Solent Riding Club

Report by Aly Burgess