

# The Herts Hunt Branch of the Pony Club

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Special Newsletter

covering the Area Events

Newsletter

Summer 2010

## Area 12 Prix Caprilli & Dressage Hyde Heath 23<sup>rd</sup> July

Herts Hunt had two Prix Caprilli teams competing this year & although neither team were placed – they all did really well, considering **Team A:** Mae Lindsell (9yrs), Isabelle Hoar (9yrs), Teagan Summers (9yrs), Nicholas Hoar (11yrs) & **Team B** Amber Newbury-Barr (13yrs), Kirsty Higgins (13yrs), Emma Killin (9yrs) & Amelia Fogden (8 yrs) were one of the youngest teams competing on the day. It was a difficult test to learn & with 4 arenas close together, ponies were easy distracted.

### Novice Dressage

We had one Novice dressage team comprising of Lucy Alderson, Izzie Fernandes, Bex Reeves & Lorna Chambers. This was all the riders first go at the Areas & they all did well – coming 15<sup>th</sup> out of 29 teams.



Liberty Fogden & Drummer Boy ( Bob ) got a wild card entry at the last moment when another rider had to pull out . This was a lucky day for

Liberty as Bob was on

top form & the combination rode a brilliant test. They came 5<sup>th</sup> in the individual placings.

### Intermediate Dressage

Again the intermediate team; Zoe Thursz, Louise Hunt, Anna Sewell & Sarah Ridger-Taylor had moved up to this level did well as the standard is always very high.

### Open Dressage



Stephanie Gibbins & her lovely horse Apollo ( now 21 yrs old ! ) were our only individual representative. Steph has been away at college in Taunton, so the partnership had a short time to practice for this competition. The marks were very close with the 1<sup>st</sup> place at 71.94% . Steph came 5<sup>th</sup> in her arena with 70% .

## Area Tetrathlon Competition at Great Westwood Park 24<sup>th</sup> July

Sadly we only had 4 Herts Hunt members competing at the competition. All did really well.

Emma Killin & Isabelle Hoar were part of a team in the Tadpole class, their team were 4<sup>th</sup> overall.

Jimmy Mitchell was part of a boys minimus team & they came 2<sup>nd</sup> overall.

Ellie Mitchell joined a Junior Girls team which came 4<sup>th</sup> overall.

Plus all members won placing rosettes for individual swim, run, shoot & XC sections.

## Area 12 show jumping at Addington Manor 29<sup>th</sup> July

This was a busy day for Janeen as our team trainer she was on hand to help with course walking, warming up & support all our team riders. But with the novice team jumping indoors & the intermediate team jumping outdoors – there was a lot of walking back & forth!

We had two Novice teams: Team B: Vicky Smith – Bryan, Izzie Fernandes – Billie, Liberty Fogden – Bob. Team A: Lucy Alderson – Milo, Vicky Smith – Eric, Bex Reeves, Isabel Price.

There was a scary dartboard on the other side of fence 3 which was near the entrance & this combination cause all sorts of problems in the first round. Lots of riders were eliminated. Team A did well in the competition with clears in the first round & some faults in the second round. Unfortunately they were just out of the placings.



Our only **open individual** was Tsarin Pike & Nikita. The open course was big & technical with up height fences at 1.10m. It was a long day as Tsarin had to jump her first round in the Open at the end of the intermediate first round & then wait for the intermediate 2<sup>nd</sup> round & jump off to be completed before the open teams & individuals could jump their 2<sup>nd</sup> rounds. Most of the horses switched off by this time & unfortunately Nikita did. Which was as shame as they jumped a good clear in the 1<sup>st</sup> round (only 4 out of 11 riders managed that in the 1<sup>st</sup> round)

## Area Show Jumping 29<sup>th</sup> July

### Report by Anna Sewell

On Thursday 29th July, Anna Sewell, Zoe Thursz, Sarah Ridger-Taylor and Sophie Gibbs set off to Addington Manor to compete in the Intermediate Area Show Jumping. As this was everyone in the team's first attempt at intermediate, and Sophie's first attempt at areas, we were not expecting any major results... How wrong we were!

We arrived early with enough time to walk the course and get ready with no rush. The course was a fair size with decent spreads, but nothing we couldn't jump. So we all went and got ready, tacked up and walked down to get our tack checked and be marked for tack and turn out. So off we went to the collecting ring where we all warmed up well and felt confident about the course. I was first to go in our team, riding my horse China Jack. This was his first show jumping outing recently so he really was thrown in at the deep-end but I knew he could jump round easily. We had one unfortunate stop where I just didn't have my leg on and then one pole so we ended on a score of eight faults. Next in was Zoe on her horse Captain Jack Sparrow. Zoe rode fantastically and had a beautiful clear. Sarah on Half Pint Gold (Alfie) was next and Sarah rode a fabulous round, having just one pole down. Sophie and Old Castle Sparkle went last and flew round, producing a brilliant clear, resulting in our team ending the first round on the score of four faults.

We were in good stead after the first round, which made us feel confident for the next. For the second round, the height went up and the spreads were widened, resulting in a bigger, more technical course. Being first to go once again, I warmed up and went in. China Jack tried his heart out in the ring and by just lowering one pole, we finished on a score of four faults for that round, I was thrilled! Zoe went next and rode amazingly round this difficult track, finishing with one stop and two poles down, which was incredible as many people were being eliminated. Sarah went next, once again riding fabulously and only lowering one pole. Sophie also rode beautifully and unfortunately had just one pole down as well. It turns out that no one went clear in the second

round so we had done amazingly well, finishing on a total score of 16 faults for the day. This was so good in fact that we won! No one could believe it as we had no experience competing at intermediate level and to go and win it first time was fantastic. Area 12 is also a very difficult Area to qualify as the level of competition is very high having so many talented riders and strong Pony Clubs around. Due to no one going double clear, the four faulters jumped off for individual places. With only Sophie in our team on four faults overall, she went into the jump off and had a brilliant round, ending in 6<sup>th</sup> place individually, so well done! The win also meant that we had qualified for the National Championships. This is where we will compete against teams from each area throughout the UK.

I would like to thank Janeen and all the mothers for all their help and support. Without you, none of this would have been possible, so thank you very much! I would also like to say well done to the team, we all worked really hard to get there and we deserved our win! It was a true team effort and I was so thrilled to be a part of it.

**Thank you everyone :)**

### **Area 12 Eventing at MKEC 1<sup>st</sup> August**

Herts Hunt PC had one Novice team & two individuals – all first timers at the Areas.

The show jumping course was inviting, but up to height. The XC course was good with some testing fences – ie drop to hedge fence, the big log over a ditch - always scary ! upright hedge & a picnic table dressed with teddy bears to finish

**Individual riders** were Sarah-Jane Lee – Jasmine & Liberty Fogden – Bob .



**Team members:** Isabel Price – Sam, Vicky Smith – Bryan, Lucy Alderson – Milo & Bex Reeves & Bertie. They did really well both as a team coming 4<sup>th</sup> overall out of 25 teams. Lucy was 4<sup>th</sup> in her arena & Bex was 3<sup>rd</sup> in her arena just missing a qualifying place for the championships by a few dressage marks.

**Intermediate team:** Zoe Thursz – Jack, Louise Hunt – Minnie, Anna Sewell – Jack & Sarah Ridger – Taylor – Alfie. The show jumping course was really big with two doubles & some spooky fillers. All the riders got clear rounds which was brilliant as not many teams did that during the day. The XC was very testing with some technical turns into some big or tricky fences. Everyone rode their best & coupled with the course.

The standard at this level is always very tough, so looking forward to another chance next year.

### **Polocrosse Team at PC Championships, Draycott Manor Derbyshire 14-15 August**

Harriet Price, Abbie Ward, Isabel Price, Phoebe Ward, Cecilia Price & H Christiansen ( SOHC ) joined forces to compete in the Polocrosse PC championships. The games were played over two days. Our girls have been practicing & training all year, including training at rallies at the PC field.

The PC teams competing come from all over England & it's very competitive & strongly contested . Our team were 2<sup>nd</sup> & won the Maldon Trophy for the second year running.



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## **National Championships 16<sup>th</sup> August**

### **Report by Sarah Ridger-Taylor (with help from the team)**

The Intermediate team show jumping was to be held on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> August. As the team had to jump early on Monday morning, we decided to make the journey the day before and stable over night. We left early on Sunday morning so we could make it to Draycott House, Derbyshire to see the branch Polocrosse team play their final match. This meant Anna had to pick me up at 9am. I had already brought Alfie in, bathed him, cleaned my tack & prepared him to travel. So an early start for me. Marvellous. Once we had managed to cram all of Alfie's luggage in the lorry on top of China Jack's we had to pick up Captain Jack. Zoe was away at Lacrosse camp leaving us to look after Captain Jack & Sophie was joining us later in the day with Sparkle.

After the two & a half hour journey, we arrived at Draycott House in time to run across the dressage warm up & see the Polocrosse team leaving the pitch! We had just missed the match. Grrr. As our stables weren't going to be empty until 4pm, we watched some of the Open show jumping & looked around the site. Eventually the stables were free so we settled China Jack, Captain Jack & Alfie then watched the polocrosse prize giving where the team came second! Once Sophie & Sparkle arrived, we took the horses for a leg stretch around the site. Riding through the campsite, stables & showground was great as there was a real atmosphere. Everyone was really friendly & we met people who had travelled from as far as Northern Scotland & Cornwall! And we thought our journey was a long one. We then set up camp, had our supper outside as the weather was lovely & spent the evening laughing at Anna's poor attempt at cleaning tack. It now becomes clear why her stable group didn't win at camp...

### Monday - Competition Day

Herts Hunt had been drawn to jump first at 8.30! So to walk the course, have our tack check & warm up we had to be at the ring by 7.30. And before that, we had to make the grey & two coloureds on the team presentable. Too early after a night on a lilo! So at 6am I received a wake up call from my mum, who was travelling with Zoe & her

parents that morning to say they were just off the motorway & that we had better get up! Eventually we made it to the ring looking very smart & walked the course. It was a fair track, with a few questions but nothing we couldn't jump at a height of 1m5 (3ft5). Unfortunately being the first team, we didn't get the benefit of watching how it was jumping for other competitors. Anna was to go first, & rode a beautiful clear round on China Jack who hasn't been out much this season. Next to go was Zoe with Captain Jack Sparrow. Zoe started strong but had two unlucky poles through a tough double of uprights finishing on eight faults. I was third in the team with Half Pint Gold who jumped really well & flew round with a clear!! Sophie was to jump last with Old Castle Sparkle & had two poles down then nearly missed a jump but recovered well to finish on 12 faults. This meant the team went into second rounds with a very respectable eight faults.

We now had time to spare until the afternoon jumping which didn't start until 2pm & was run in reverse order. This meant the team with most penalties jumped first & the team with the least jumped last. So we put the horses back in the stables, had some breakfast & wandered round the trade stands. There was also the open eventing competition, so we watched some of the show jumping, which made us feel better about what we had to jump! We also walked the intermediate & open cross-country courses & were very impressed. Everything was so well dressed & built; it was like walking a mini Badminton! There was international & senior mounted games going on & freestyle dressage to music, so plenty to see.

After a long wait, finally it was time to jump again. We were lying in ninth place out of 27 teams. The jumps had gone up, now to 1m10 (3ft7) & the course was more technical. Anna was first in for the team. Unfortunately, she came a bit unstuck with a difficult turn back to a very imposing double. Jack couldn't make the jump out & stopped but jumped through the second time. Both of them had got a bit flustered & had a stop at the next fence & toppled a few poles so they finished on 12 faults. Next to go was Zoë who rode another very positive round & Captain Jack really performed producing a lovely clear round! I was next in & once again Alfs really answered all the questions put in front of him & jumped

another clear. Last to go again was Sophie, who felt the pressure as the commentator announced that we would take the lead if she jumped clear. She remembered the course this time but scattered a few poles, finishing on 16 faults. Being the least experienced combination on the team, Sophie & Sparkle did very well.

The team finished 12<sup>th</sup> overall on a final score of 28 but at the end of the day we were all pleased to have qualified & have such a wonderful time. Getting the chance to compete at an event like the Nationals, against competitors from all over the UK is such a privilege & we hope to qualify again next year! I think the whole team would join me in thanking all our parents who were so helpful running around after us on the day, driving miles & getting up at ridiculous hours of the morning to get us there & our other supporters. Especially Jane Sewell who drove the lorry with both Jack's & Alfie. Also to Janeen, who is always so supportive, making sure we're in the right places at the right times & helping us train for these events & warm up on the day. I would also like to say a huge thank you to my team members. You all made it so much fun & without the team none of us would have had the chance to go. We all played our parts in getting us there & there was such a feeling of team spirit, even when things didn't always go to plan.

