

Report from the Senior Inter Regional Event – May 2009

WE WON!!!!

Just in case you did not see the above title, or read Horse and Hound - yes it's official - the Eastern Yellow Team were the champions at the Senior Inter Regional Event in May!!! We had a fantastic two days at The College. Everything kicked off on the Friday with a team briefing, and a few bevies (all in the name of team bonding of course!) Our 27 riders got their team badges, a discount for The Tack Room (thanks Kerry!) and most importantly the times for the weekend for them and their fellow team mates. The sun shone all weekend, and Saturday proved to be a marathon! The first tests started at 8am, and the last horse left the arena just on 9pm!! Our Rider Rep and Team Trainer Paul Hayler had come from Belgium the day before where Bobby was competing, but true to his word, he arrived at Keysoe before the first of our team tests, and proceeded to warm up every team member for the entire weekend! More celebrations were held over our BBQ on the Saturday night with our Yellow Team lying 3rd, and our Blue team in 8th.

So Sunday dawned, another bright and early start - and our first riders had competed and settled down for their breakfast by 8.30am. As the day wore on, there were copious amounts of maths being done by the scoreboard, trainers and riders trying to work out which person in which team had to pull off what percentage, in order for their team to move up. It was nail biting stuff - but as the results of the individual classes began to filter through, we started to get quite excited!! However it was not until the very end, when Amanda Bond (BD CEO) and the sponsor - Lexus Milton Keynes, were well through the individual prizes that the results came through for the teams. Even then, our riders didn't know the outcome, although Paul and I were jumping up and down in excitement!! Finally, it came to the big moment, Amanda built up the tension well, and the 2009 Champions were announced "THE EASTERN REGION YELLOW TEAM"(The team consisted of Kerry Allen, Elenor Dimant, Claire Parker and Michele Wyatt) It was a fantastic end to the weekend, and what made it even nicer was came up to say well done, and that if they were going to be beaten by anyone, they were glad it was the East

So a massive WELL DONE to each and every one of our riders who all did the region proud. It was a privilege to be a part of the team with you for the weekend - and you all did a fantastic job! Well done also to

the BLACK TEAM (Becky Hutchinson, Fiona Heath, Claire Ackerman and Sue Maddocks) who came in 10th, the BLUE TEAM (Rosemary Coker, Tina Wingar, Carolyn Davies and Louise Clark) in 12th and the WHITE TEAM (Rachel Stott, Louise Jenkinson-Dix, Gill Daniell and Claire Knowles) in 16th - what great placings out of 39 teams!! Coming in at 31st was our final team - the RED TEAM (Laura Mansfield, Claire Williams, Samantha Tarrier and Louise Gripton).



THE VICTORIOUS YELLOW TEAM

Elenor Dimant Kerry Allen Claire Parker Michele Wyatt Sponsor Paul Hayler

We also got some great individual results, not least in the new Advanced Medium/PSG class where our very own Tammy Ruffles was victorious (yes, it really was a pretty good weekend for the East!) Trevor Downham was 5th and Sylvia Josling 6th. In the Prelim, Rosemary Coker did a great test on the second day to come up into 6th place overall - well done Rosemary! In the hotly contested Novice (with 43 riders in it) our star was Claire Parker who was crowned Novice Champ with a combined score over the two days of over 68%! In the Elementary, our star was Fiona Heath who did brilliantly to come 3rd out of 45 riders, and Elenor Dimant was

just behind in 5th, with Carolyn Davies in 12th. The Medium class saw Louise Clark flying the flag for the East in 6th - well done Louise!

A big thank you must go to all of our riders who were fantastic team players, and fun to be with too (especially those who kept me going after 13 hours of scoring with a G&T or two!) Also as ever, a massive thanks to Paul Hayler for being THE best Rider Rep! Paul also got a gorgeous painting done by Polly Hodges as his prize for being the trainer of the winning team. And to all of you who tried out for places this year and were not successful, please do try again next year - I'm sure that every single person who went there will tell you that all the hard work and training and time was worth it!!