

Report on BYRDS Home International, Rowallan, Scotland 2011

By Ruth Hole

Eastern regions members selected to representing England in the Home International 2011.

Eastern Uthopia

Joseph Taylor - Primus D
Ella Wager - Moustly
Imogen Rochester - Briggsen
Clare Hole - Bernwode Chantal

Eastern Gigolo

Jade Addy - Diamo
Imogen Ablett - River Valley Amadeus
Ruth Hole - Bernwode Dimitri
Angus Rowe - Nando II

Eastern Rembrandt

Amy Nash - Hello Oscar
Jenny Gates - Dunkel Heit
Bethany Rose Horobin – Leontes Double
India Sheridan - Kelmscott Sandpiper

Our riders and horses arrived in Scotland on Sunday afternoon and evening to find a hot, sunny day - and not the weather we had packed for! After 10 hours in the lorry, everyone was pleased to meet up and stretch their legs. It was fun collecting the smart, named shirts and fleeces. The horses were very relieved to be able to graze on the surrounding grass then eventually make it into their stables and settle down for the night.

All Eastern region lorries were parked together close to the Eastern region marquee, which was decorated in England and Eastern region colours.



On Monday, the arenas were opened for training with the Eastern region being assigned around lunchtime, in beautiful sunshine. Everyone looked very smart in light blue bandages and clothing while they were training. It was fun decorating the stables and lorries with England flags and banners.



In the afternoon, Eleanor arrived to take charge, as our Chef d'equipe. We met up for dinner in the Eastern region



marquee while Eleanor explained the rules, and gave out our wristbands and meal tickets. And most importantly, all competitors were given a plaque and a smart teddy to commemorate the event.



Eleanor doing a team talk

Then it was time to prepare for the opening ceremony: everyone dressed up in their Home International shirts, which looked amazing and assembled outside the International arena. We carried England flags and our Home International teddies. It was very exciting as we all marched in to Scottish bagpipes.



After the opening ceremony, we all dressed our horses up in their England rugs and white bandages for team photographs on the grass. The horses and ponies seemed very proud to be posing in front of the camera in their new clothes!

The first day of competition including riding 2 tests for most people so everyone was quite busy getting organised to ride and support the others in the teams. It was so nice to hear the applause and cheers from our Eastern supporters. Highlights for the first morning of competitions were in the Elementary: Bethany 4th, Imogen Ablett 9th and Ella Wager 17th, and in the medium, Ruth was 12th. In the afternoon, Bethany was 5th in the Elementary and Amy Nash 14th in the medium, while Angus Rowe was the best Eastern region novice, coming 22nd in a huge class. The day ended with a barbeque and disco, although everyone was pretty and tired and so not too much dancing was seen!



Warm up



The second day of competition only included one test, but some people started early so there was plenty of plaiting and grooming happening in the stables from early on. Horses and rider seemed a little more relaxed on the second day but remembering the third test in a row was still quite a challenge! Three Eastern region made it into the prize giving for the individual classes: in the

medium Amy was 3rd and Ruth was 10th, while Bethany came 3rd in the elementary.

It was great fun to be able to hang around with friends between and after the tests although the scoring seemed to take an age to be sorted out. The prize giving took place in the International arena, and all the competitors came in together in competition gear. The winners stood on the podium and were given prizes including buckets and whips.

Overall, the Eastern Rembrandt team did the best of the Eastern teams, to come 12th overall. The individual championships for results in all 3 tests (where all three had been entered) were:

Fledgling Championship:	2 nd Angus, 4 th India, 5 th Clare, 6 th Imogen
Pony Elementary Championship:	3 rd Bethany
Pony Medium Championship:	2 nd Ruth
Junior Novice Championship:	14 th Jenny
Junior Elementary Championship:	4 th Imogen, 5 th Ella
Young Rider Novice Championship	4 th Jade

Overall everyone learnt loads from the experience and had a wonderful time being part of a great team. We are all hugely grateful to Eleanor for all the support and training, and for organising us and our teddies, to Sam for arranging the kit, and to our parents for getting us there and helping us.