



BRITISH DRESSAGE TEAM SOUTHERN



Home International 2010



As competition goes the Senior Home International is the largest and most prestigious of non affiliated team competition in the calendar and 2010 was no exception.

Partially due to the increasing success of the region and partly due to the camaraderie and fun of the event more riders that ever put themselves and their horses forward to ride for our region, over 50 combinations came forward for consideration which was astonishing as regrettably we only had 16 places to fill.

The decisions were incredibly difficult and it took two judges three trainers an RDO and lots of coffee to come up with the final 16. So with hearts bursting with pride, Lorries stacked to overload, horses washed and clipped and a birthday cake for Emma Kinsley we set off for day one at the prestigious Home International.

The first day – Friday – was dedicated to those wanting a warm-up competition and once again Southern set the standard with a fabulous win at Novice for first time team member Francesca Newman on the irrepressible Coquette with a stunning 72.76% which was the highest score of the competition!! This was quickly followed by Karen Crosdil on Show Lady and Devan Woodgate on Winchester Dream coming 3rd & 4th respectively in the Elementary.



Then on the Friday afternoon came the dreaded trot up and wow we did look smart.

Horses started to emerge in their beautiful team Southern rugs kindly supported by **Premier Equine** www.premierequine.co.uk and sponsored by **Elite Design Printers 01342 301044** every horse performed impeccably and each horse passed with flying colours

Saturday was a brisk autumn day with not a cloud in the sky and the Southern Team stepped forward ready for battle. The Prelim classes saw solid results and rosette winning performances from Katy Taylor on the Stunning Rohvanion getting a well deserved 3rd place, Emma Christmas on the Young but impressive Wakita a solid 7th and Jo Buckley on the stately Lord Brun 8th. I was so relieved said Jo after he escaped from his box this morning and galloped around countless acres I was grateful he had any energy left!

The individual prize giving continued with success for the Southern team when Francesca Newman once again had a podium place of 2nd with Coquette. Claire Almett on the Elegant Soloyst came a very respectable 7th even though Claire thought designing her own test would gain her valuable points

The Elementary competition was once again going to be fiercely contested and was the second of the three compulsory team levels and we triumphed! Toni Terry on the magnificent Diamond Fritz came a fabulous second. Devan Woodgate on the most handsome Winchester Dream came 8th, Victoria Strutton on the Dynamic Sound Barrier 11th We also enjoyed very strong performances from Karen Crosdil and the ever elegant Show Lady.



Then we went onto the Medium competition, we knew we had three incredibly strong competitors with Emma Kinsley, Jane Lavington and Debbie Roberts and wow we weren't disappointed Emma and p.w.Gambler went first and stayed there throughout the session with a magnificent performance netting a 69.24% score – Emma was amazed and although she knew she and Gamble had done well she knew that going out into the lead and holding it would take some doing! Jane also did incredibly well with the ever consistent and always graceful Idlecombe Georgia gaining a healthy 7th place. Debbie and superstar Ace also gave a strong performance and a solid result. Our final competitor of the day was Sarah Ridd on the irrepresible and ever crowd pleasing Weymarsh Maximus who bagged a healthy 11th place



At each Home International there are additional competitions, this includes a prize for the best dressed stables where each region chooses a theme, our region decided that we would base the theme around a plaque that embodies the dedication and



team strength that is Southern, the plaque discovered by Debbie Roberts announce our strap line

"KEEP CALM AND CARRY ON"

An our entire theme was built around the wonderful Land Girls who kept the home fires burning and



Dressage horses competing with sand bags (filed with donations from our equine partners), gas masks and bunkers, hair rollers and scarves the order of the day all accompanied by Vera on the CD player



So then after the excitement of settled, competitors and gathered for the evening presentations a raffle and then performing live. Andy was the fantastic and powerful singing



the competitions. Horses were supporters showered and we all entertainment which was a meal, to the star turn Andy Abrahams runner up on X factor and began a and stage performance.



Now as we all know the Southern region are always interested in participating in group social events and this was no exception. The evening progressed and the food & wine flowed, Andy started to tour the room of over a hundred and fifty people singing each song as well as the last and the dancing began. As I



have mentioned previously the team is made up of riders from different spheres, some who work in the equine industry, some who teach and train and then we have those that are both riders and judges.....on a table....dancing....

The second day of the competition dawned and all were up and about bright and early plaiting and preparing for what was going to be a hard fought battle

First up were the Prelim's with Emma Christmas on the young Wakita who along with Saturdays performance achieved an outstanding third overall championship position, Katy Taylor and Handsome Rohvanion ended the competition with an overall 7th and a very strong performance from Jo Buckley and Lord Brun completed the Preliminary competition.

Next up and contributing to the overall team positions and individual championships were the Novice riders and Francesca Newman on the irrepressible Coquette stormed home into a stunning second place with a score of 70.02% close on her heels was Claire Almett and the aloof and handsome Soloyst who achieved a brilliant 4th overall with almost 69%.



At this point we knew that two of our teams were doing extremely well and we entered into the Elementary section And when Toni Terry brought home the extravagant and impressive Diamond Fritz to an overall third place with a hard fought and well earned 66.86% we were sure that we would have a podium finish.



Everything depended on the Medium and advanced Medium sections and we were not disappointed on the day Debbie Roberts and the irrepressible dynamic Ace of Base won the Sunday completion with an incredibly well deserved 67.43% Emma Kinsley and p.w.Gambler clinched 2nd place in the overall championship with Jane Lavington a very credible 6th in the championship! It was over all too soon and as we waited for the final scores to be added the presentations began.

The final of the four teams were Southern Mai Tai. The team Captain Karen Crosdil said of her team "they tried so hard and we had some excellent performances. Medium rider Jane Stevens, Elementary Karen, Novice Gill Wise and Preliminary Jo Buckley all did so very well"

In 14th place overall was team Southern Cosmopolitan, Team Captain Debbie Roberts said that it had been a hard fought competition with all of the riders so close to each other in terms of performance and scores with only the smallest percentages dividing the top 6 places, Debbie's team was Victoria Strutton, Cheryl Hammerson on the young up and coming DiMondez and Katy Taylor.

Then missing out on a third place podium finish by JUST ONE POINT was the outstanding Southern Mojito team. Sarah Ridd was team captain and said she was incredibly proud of the effort and dedication of each and every rider – they gave their all and were rewarded with a top 4 place, the team consisted of Jane Lavington, Francesca Newman and Devan Woodgate



But in a stupendous, well deserved and incredibly impressive 2nd overall championship place were team Southern Manhattan.

Team Captain Emma Kinsley said of her team "what can I say – Second and FABULOUS" Team Manhattan was made up of Toni Terry Elementary, Claire Almett Novice and Emma Christmas Preliminary

And finally an end note to our team mascot, Jake, Owned by Kevin who also owns Joanne Buckley's ride Lord Brun. Thank you Jake – you were a trooper!

Well done to all of the Southern teams – we are so immensely proud of you – but the others better watch out next year we just get better and better with each competition....

