



Just-So Winter Dressage Series The Arrow Riding Centre, Darenth, Kent 14th March 2010

At last it felt like Spring had arrived with blue skies and sunshine and several degrees warmer than experienced at our previous shows of the Winter Series!

Once again we had a lot of withdrawals due to lameness and other ailments, but it was the Novice and Elementary classes that were most affected.

The Prelim 18 class was judged by Kerry Balmer. Junior rider Tia Ratty's regular mount, Queensland Campari, was off work so she brought her veteran pony Blinkey Blue this time. 20yr old Blinkey showed some of the younger equines how it should be done when he and Tia won the class with a score of 76.1%, beating second placed Morgan Schive riding Nightwatchman, by 12 marks. With each show of the Winter Series, Morgan's horse has become more relaxed, and today he produced a really nice test gaining 66.7%.. Victoria Perry and Mente G picked up more points towards the Novice Section Points Championship by being placed 3rd with 65.4%

As our original judge had found herself on crutches after turning her ankle, I swapped my secretary's hat for my judging hat to judge Novice 34.. It was a small class, but the standard was good. Sarah Hetherington rode an active and rhythmical test on her super little coloured mare, Jigsaw, to take 1st place with 69.1%. Amanda Swann on Easy Money and Sue Duff on Roo, both scored 67.1% and were only split by their collective marks for 2nd and 3rd places respectively.

Elementary 42 was judged by Lynne Southwood and we unfortunately only had 4 entries – however they were all good ones! Another veteran, 18yr old Taman Kaestindo, took first place ridden by Sue Kennet with a beautifully balanced test which earned a score of 69.3% - a full 19 marks ahead of 2nd placed Sarah on Jigsaw. 3rd place was taken by Sue Duff riding Roo with 66.2%.

This being the last show of the Winter Series, it was also the day the Points Championship rosettes were awarded.

Winner of the Novice Section was Arrow Riding Centre based rider Victoria Perry on her beautiful black gelding Mente G. Victoria had been consistently placed in her class at all three shows of the series, and it was a deserved win.

Sarah Hetherington needed a small wheelbarrow to take home her haul of trophies as she won the Intermediate, Open and Overall Points Championships. Three trophies, a shower of voluptuous championship rosettes and a sash were bestowed on Sarah and Jigsaw who have produced accurate, active tests throughout the Winter Series, and it was good to see her fellow competitors stay to give her a round of applause for her achievements.

Full results of all classes and the Championship Points League Table are available at www.just-soequestrianevents.dacel.co.uk as are schedules for forthcoming shows and events, the next of which is the Spring Dressage to Music Show on the 11th April at The Arrow Riding Centre.

Pippa Doran
Just-So equestrian Events