

North Eastern Driving Trials Ltd

ESCRICK PARK

May 2008

Two days of completely opposite weather marked NEDTL's recent event at Escrick Park – scorching hot sun on Saturday, torrential rain on Sunday! However, most people had packed enough clothes to cope and all 55 entries soldiered on bravely.

Split across ten classes including two novice qualifiers and a para-equestrian section, the two dressage arenas were kept busy all day. Best open score of the day including the multiples went to Lynn Howard with her tandem of lovely bay ponies who scored a creditable 43.6 with the best club novice score of 47.8 going to Tony Mould with his Welsh Section A pony.

In the novice qualifiers, David Wagstaff-Myers claimed the lead in the pony class with 47.4 from Birgitta Kronqvist and Joanne Thomas. David's chunky black pony must be one of the most unusually bred on the circuit, being a Friesian/Thoroughbred crossed with a Shetland! David refuses to confirm which one of them had to stand on a box! In the horse class Wendy Peckham finished the first day ahead of Jane Smith, Cathy Towle and Rachel Ainscough.

In the para-equestrian class, Lindsey Tyas did a lovely test for 38.0 penalties but was closely followed by the rest of the squad with only nine points separating all five of them. Cones were decisive in this class however, leading to a complete shake up in the order with Judi Ralls becoming the overnight leader by dint of a double clear.

Sadly, on Sunday morning the heavens opened which meant that after four weeks of hot dry weather, ground conditions were extremely greasy. Luckily most obstacles held up well with only number four getting quite deep towards the end of the day. In the pre-novice class Graham Heath put up a very fast time of 68.4, which would have stood him in good stead even in the open horse class. Others to make a name for themselves on the marathon were Joanne Thomas in the pony qualifier who stormed round the obstacles for 57.6 penalties but sadly picked up 5.2 on the walk section. Judy Hilditch scored 62.8 making her the fastest open horse, whilst Lynn Winder scored a 71.4 in the pony pairs. Quickest of the day however, was Gary Brown who flew the obstacles in 54.4 giving him the rosette for fastest marathon of the day and also the lowest overall score.

By way of an interesting fact, out of the ten classes, seven competitors who went into Sunday's marathon in the lead managed to maintain it and go on to win the class. Out of the three remaining overnight leaders two were eliminated and one finished second.

NEDTL regulars have a bit of a break now, as the next event isn't until the beginning of July, when everyone meets up again at Lindricks Farm near Ripon.

Jane Wilson