

North Eastern Driving Trials Ltd

END OF SEASON SCORCHER:

The final outdoor club event of the season took place at Escrick Park from the 19th to the 21st September. For the first time this year everyone was able to put away the wet weather gear that has seen so much use up until now!

Saturday's dressage showed a wide range of marks, the lowest of which belonged to Wendy Mason who gained 37.60 in the Open Horse class and the highest being 79.48, the owner of which I will not be mean enough to name here! Cones were once again decisive with only five people managing a double clear and more than one falling foul of tricky-placed number 16 and getting eliminated. Nonetheless, everyone finished the first day in good spirits and set about enjoying the communal barbeque. Again for the first time this year it wasn't a case of trying to find somewhere to eat that was out of the rain as the warm sunshine continued into the evening and a jolly time was had by all!

Sunday morning brought unexpectedly high temperatures and I think those horses and ponies who had started to grow their winter coats began to wish they hadn't. However, most coped well with the help of Escrick's level ground and woodland paths and still had plenty left to give when they got to the obstacles. In the pre-novice class, Colonus Smith from East Anglia who was making his North East debut put up an excellent all-round performance to take the win from Sam Thornton, with Kim Usher taking third.

Joanne Thomas won the novice pony class being one of the few to do a double clear in the cones. Had she not incurred penalties in the walk section, her marathon time would not have been out of place in the open class. Gemma Smith pressed her hard to take the runner up slot and Nigel Williams was third. Winner of the novice horse class was Carolyn Cunningham from Northumberland, who despite difficulties in the cones and some issues with her steering on the marathon turned in the fastest time to win the class from Catherine Worsman, who had won the dressage with a 48.18. Ann Connolly from the Chester Driving Group took third place.

In the open pony class, despite finishing third in the dressage, marathon specialist Gary Brown just about left scorch marks in the grass to record the fastest marathon of the whole day (and the lowest overall score) to take the win from Glenys Ellis with Tony Mould in third. The open horse class was won by Judy Hilditch who is gaining something of a reputation for herself as a fast woman (around the obstacles!). Sixth after dressage, she recorded the second fastest marathon of the day (only 4 penalties slower than Gary) to pull up into first place from a delighted Lynn Longbottom, whose young horse is only in his first season of competing.

Christine Twigg and her attractive black ponies won the pairs class by adding fastest marathon to her overnight lead from dressage and cones. Jeff Ormerod was the only tandem forward in the multiples class, the other contestant being Peter Shannon with his team of Welsh Cobs. Peter won the dressage but sadly was eliminated in the cones leaving Jeff to take the win.

Being the last outdoor event of the season, the NEDTL points champions for 2008 have been confirmed and the results are as follows:

Novice Pony	-	Joanne Thomas (9)
Novice Horse	-	Catherine Worsman (8)
Open Pony	-	Glenys Ellis (17)
Open Horse	-	Judy Hilditch (11)
Pairs	-	Douglas Strachan (10)
Multiples	-	Jeff Ormerod (7)