



ALLERTON PARK EVENT:

For the first time this season, the North East held an event that was not dogged by bad weather! Despite a brisk shower on Sunday morning before anyone had to set out on the marathon, sunny weather prevailed much to everyone's relief. Saturday saw two dressage arenas in action to cope with 66 entries across eight classes including an inaugural National Intermediate qualifier. Angela Flanagan from Leicestershire staked an early claim in the open horse class with a score of 40.4 in the dressage and underlined it with a double clear in the cones to become overnight leader in a competitive class of 13. In the open pony class Tony Mould put up score of 49.2 in the dressage with his improving new pony but only one dislodged ball was enough to drop him down to second and allow Glenys Ellis, only two penalties behind, to overtake him with a well judged double clear. Only two competitors came forward to contest the intermediate horse qualifier with Amelia Roose winning the dressage and Geoff Kirby the cones to take the lead.

Eleven turnouts took part in the pairs class with best dressage going to long-time North East competitor Douglas Strachan closely followed by a raider from the Midlands club, George Spencer. Douglas held on to his lead with only one ball down within the time, whilst George also picked up three penalties for a ball down but added a couple of time faults also. Three tandems and one pony team made up the smallest class of the weekend in which local girl Pat Cooper took an early lead over Richard Fisher. Sadly Pat was eliminated in the cones which handed the baton firmly to Richard, who generously passed it on to Jeff Ormerod by having three cones down to Jeff's double clear!

Overnight leaders in the novice classes were Christine Worsman (horse), Birgitta Kronqvist (pony) with that honour going to newcomer Carolyn Cunningham in the pre-novice class, the only person of the day with a dressage score in the 30's

Marathon day was sunny with just enough of a breeze to keep horses and ponies comfortable on the 16k route set completely within the lovely parkland setting. Obstacles were open and flowing but with enough to challenge drivers and provide interest to spectators. Fastest marathon of the day went once again to obstacle specialist Gary Brown who stormed round with a total score of 45.4. This was enough to bring him up from 4th place to 2nd, but not enough for him to overtake Glenys Ellis from Wakefield who retained her first place to take the class with Tony Mould finishing third. In the open horse, Angela Flanagan was also on a flyer and her marathon score of 51.8 allowed her to break the 100 barrier and finish with the lowest overall score of the event on 92 penalties. Judy Hilditch made a sterling effort to catch up, being only .2 of a penalty behind Angela through the obstacles to take second place from a rapidly improving Alec Jeffrey from Easingwold.

In the pairs class Event Organiser Ken Walmsley put up a spirited challenge to the class leaders, his winning marathon score pulling him up from 9th place after dressage to 5th overall. George Spencer from Ashburn took the win from Douglas Strachan with another Midlands raider, Chris Doughty in third with his horse pair.

In the tandem class Richard Fisher regained the lead from Jeff Ormerod to take the win but mention must be made here of Peter Shannon, lone pony team driver, who drove a smooth and well-judged marathon which was a pleasure to watch.

It was all change in the novice classes, with only Carolyn Cunningham holding on to her overnight lead to take the pre-novice with an extremely respectable score of 114.30 penalties overall. Gemma Smith took the novice pony and Graham Heath the novice horse.

There was a selection of special prizes on offer and these were spread throughout the event. Sandra Johnson donated prizes for the best novice dressage and fastest through the water obstacle which went to Carolyn Cunningham and Gary Brown respectively. Dodson and Horrell gave feed vouchers to the fastest driver through obstacles one and three. Ken Walmsley won the former and George Spencer the latter. There was also a bottle of port donated by Brian Anderson for the fastest double clear in the cones, when went to Stephen Trebble.