

British Riding Clubs Winter Novice SJ Chamionships  
Saturday April 2<sup>nd</sup> 2011 Hartpury, Gloucestershire

Our team of Alex Taskin. Brenda Hawkes, Jo Mooney and Michelle Yeo together with assorted helpers and supporters travelled to Hartpury and arrived in fine form on Friday afternoon. By 5pm all horses were ridden and settled in their spacious permanent stables and riders had walked the course for the first of 5 or 6 times!

The course was bigger & wider than expected, and was also very twisting & turning and very bright with flowers & fillers everywhere. -so a tough one!

A relaxing team dinner at a local pub and then off to sleep either in lorries or at the local Travel Lodge

Our first rider in was Michelle with a lovely clear, and then we all willed Jo & Bodey over every fence - another clear! Both Alex & Brenda were unlucky to have 4 faults each. 5 teams had 3 clears so we weren't too far adrift at this stage. The bogey fence looked harmless but caused at least half of all the problems. It was a set of wavy multi coloured planks which seemed to fall all the time. I think we need to buy a set!

For the second round the course was changed & raised and then the scores started to clock up for everyone.

Brenda & Michelle had 1 down each plus 2 time faults, Jo kicked round for 4 inside the time, Alex was unlucky to have 2 down inside time.

There was no jump off as the class was won by Huntingdon on zero, then 2<sup>nd</sup> was on 5 faults in total. Rosettes went to 10th which was the fastest team with 16. Ours ended on 20, and were 15th of 27 teams. So for a team of genuine novice horses I think they did us proud. And our supporters were amongst the best at cheering - well done to us too!