

BRC/BE 80 Championships

This acronym is the British Riding Clubs / British Eventing 80 Championship series. Yes it's quite a title! This is a new competition where all the 'normal' BE80 classes around the country are qualifiers for the Championships. (You can enter a BE80 class on a day ticket). The two best Riding Club members then qualify for the Championships.

As a club we did not actively promote this competition this year, but had one member Wendy Thomas and Nick, who qualified at the Chilham BE80 competition in August. The Championship was held at Brooksby Melton College in Leicestershire on the 25th September. This Championship event was a normal one day event, but as it was a long distance away, we went up the night before – Nick had a nice stable booked at the college (rubber matting floor and an automatic water drinker – a new item to him – that he thought was great fun). Wendy (and Sue Stewart who came along to be the groom) had a tent for the night! We had a good journey up and got our camp all sorted etc before it got dark. (We had made the mistake of tent erection in the dark on a previous occasion – ending up covered with saggy tent cloth rather than the traditional airspace between occupant and roof of tent!!). Nick was very happy in his stable – so we went out to the pub for dinner!

The next day we had plenty of time and could walk the course at our leisure, re-wash Nick (who'd have a grey) and plat up etc. We warmed up for the dressage and did a really good test for 32 penalties. Next, the dreaded show jumping – Nick's least favourite bit, but he kept his cool and jumped a lovely clear round. Finally, onto the cross country – storming round clear in the time. So we finished on our dressage score of 32. The standard was exceptionally high and this score gave us a final placing of 12th (but as this was a national competition - that's out of the whole country, really). A great performance and we were very pleased – I couldn't have asked for more.

Thanks to Sue Stewart for her time, assistance and catering! A long drive home arriving at gone 10pm and Nick was anxious to get out in the field and tell his mates all about it!

If anyone thinks this series may be of interest to them next year – please drop an email/text to indicate interest and we can then build some training around this, or assist with any info etc.

Wendy Thomas.