

Horse Trials Report

This area team qualifier event was held at Borde Hill over their British Eventing courses on June 20th. We sent three teams – the novice team of Mel Jones, Lizzie Burden, Michelle Yeo and Wendy Thomas all had good dressage results, a few poles in the show jumping here and there, and only one run out XC between them all. Everyone completed this testing course in style, and the team came 8th out of 18, in a tough competition.

Our Intermediate team were only three in number – Sally Sharp, Louise King and Jenny Hutchinson. Unfortunately Sally's horse lost a shoe which meant she did not go XC – despite valiant attempts to find a farrier nearby and get it put back on, so the team were unplaced. However, both Louise and Jenny had double clears, and Jenny's cracking fast round in the XC gave her an individual third.

Our Open team were also only three and won it! Well done to Sharon Polding (also individual 1st), Sophie Leaney (also individual 2nd) and Naomi Henderson (individual ... yes you've guessed it 3rd) – we couldn't have had a better result. There were four other competitors in the section – but they were no match for our ladies!

Finally – our junior novice individual – Jess Hawkes. This was the biggest course Jess and her young steed had attempted, a reasonable dressage and only one pole SJ and a clear XC coming (frustratingly) 7th – just outside the ribbons.

Well one to all our team competitors, and thank you for all your efforts to get there and provide Maidstone with very credible results.

There were also some non-team classes and one of our members took part in the 80 cms class – Alex Taskin, who had a fair dressage, only one pole SJ and one fence penalty in the XC, but completed the course despite her nerves. I'm sure it was a great learning curve for things to come later!

We were lucky to have perfect weather for the day and everyone enjoyed the day – and all the horses and riders rose to the challenge in their respective classes. Well done all.

If anyone is thinking they might like to do the teams in a future year – the fundamental thing is to get some practice in. There is an unaffiliated one day event at Borde Hill over the weekend of the 2nd/3rd October – they are running classes from 80 cms upwards. This is a great opportunity to get some experience, and have a good look at the courses. See www.brcarea10.org.uk for details.

Finally – thanks to all our helpers who came to assist the club running the show jumping arena – I'm sorry I haven't got all your names to hand, but your assistance was very much appreciated and everyone did a most professional job.

Report by Wendy Thomas.