

AREA 17 CHAIRMANS REPORT 2009

After our **Points presentation** lunch at Rockingham Castle our first activity of the year was a **Teach-in** held at Moulton Equestrian centre on March 7th. Julie Templeton was invited to instruct. We had a very successful day and all those who attended agreed they had benefited hugely from the expert tuition.

I was, however, a little disappointed that there were only eleven of our own area members which took advantage of this very popular day, the rest of the numbers being made up of area 5 and 7 members.

This teach-in was designed to take place the week before our Spring Show to give members the opportunity of an outing before competing at our **Spring Show** which took place on March 15th. Again this was great success despite the economic climate. We had yet again re-designed rings to try and make the showground and collecting areas as safe as possible. The timetable had been changed slightly from the previous year and this just needed tweaking again for 2010.

Young Judges training sessions took place throughout the year, organised by Vikki Green and Tricia Farmborough. Various yards were visited including David Tatlow, Sam Loveridge, Katy Marriott Payne and the local Riding school. We were delighted that starred judges from our own area were able to give their time to instruct our candidates, so thanks must go to Sheila Donger, Philip Hilton, Joan Lewis and Mrs Rogers. This year our team comprised of Colette Green, Jessica Corkett and Kristie Short. Our Individual Young Judge was Laura Myatt. New outfits were purchased this year. Although our candidates were not placed I was told that they gave a good account of themselves, so well done.

Our **Young Stewards** which essentially blossom from our young judges team, steward for us on a continual basis and our congratulations goes to Colette Green who represented the Area at the Stewards competition held at the Winter Championships. She was a very creditable 4th place.

Our **WHP Teach-In** was held in April at Sissons Farm near Peterborough. John Paul Sheffield, a highly successful International event rider had been invited to instruct. Again this was a very successful day with 27 pony and rider combinations benefiting from his expert tuition. Again there was a waiting list for this event.

Blakesley Show which is essentially our summer show took place on August 1st. Although we run the showing rings the remuneration from this show goes to Blakesley Agricultural society which is why it does not

appear in our accounts. This show always clashes with Area 15 Mid Herts which holds HOYS qualifiers and therefore does impact on entries. At this show the highest placed area 17 member in each BSPS class receives a rosette which allows them to go forward to for the Area 17 championship.

At the summer championships we always enter teams for **Premier League** competitions even if we cannot submit our “full quota” for each division. We have a different chef d’equipe for each section whose names are always posted on our website, so that members can contact either via e-mail or telephone. Thank you to all the members who represented our Area with such enthusiasm, especially in the evening performance and huge congratulations to our team of Alex Bates, Kristie Short, Kimberley Bates, Lauren Brill and Colette Green, who actually won the dressage Competition! Well done girls!

This year for the first time a **Heritage Young Judges** competition took place at the Heritage Championships. Eleanor Corkett and Colette Green who both successfully compete in M&M classes and who have represented the area for some years in the Young Judges Competition at the summer Championships, were asked to represent the area. Well done Eleanor who came fourth and Colette who just missed out on 6th place. A great start for competing again this year!!

Our **Winter Show** was once again held at Keysoe Equestrian centre on October 29th. Although a traditional half term date for Area 17 the date becomes an increasingly difficult choice because of the split half-term. It was made based on Northampton and Bedfordshire school dates. It once again followed the Heritage Championships which does impact on our entries. However, after a very quiet start to the day it did eventually “pick-up” and although we made a loss it was not as large as we had initially feared. We were very grateful to Mrs Champion for once again sponsoring the rosettes at this show.

I am also pleased to announce that our **Bursary winners** of 2009, Sophie Beaty and Kimberley Bates have used their bursaries to great effect, especially Sophie who represented The English under 16 event team in Ireland this year.

SPONSORS

Thank you to all our sponsors who very kindly sponsored classes during the year. The profit that we make from our Spring show allows us to give subsidised teach-ins, points presentations and rosettes, area waistcoats,

young judges outfits and also helps to support our loss making Winter show.

With times that are difficult financially it is difficult for me to tell you how much we rely on sponsorship for our shows. The sponsorship board is here today and we would be really grateful for any support that you feel you can give the area.

This year once again I have been very busy in many capacities. Judging , Stewarding, and commentating which allows me to keep in touch with members and competitors . I am also Chairman of Area Chairman and in this capacity attend council meetings and sit on various committees. This allows me to keep in touch with members and competitors at all levels. I know that Area 17 is highly regarded in terms of its professionalism in organising everything that we do. This is not without a lot of work behind the scenes from our hardworking and very dedicated committee who meet approximately 9 times a year to organise activities for the area.

I make no apologies in thanking in no particular order!

Annabelle Beaty

Ellie Bletsoe Brown

Philip Hilton

Paul Cook

Lynette Bates

Vikki Green

Tricia Farmborough

Katy Marriot Payne

Joan Lewis

Eleanor Corkett

Jean Mackannes

Finally I would just like to announce that our hard working secretary Annabelle Beaty is very sadly retiring this year. However, I want to thank her for all her hard work and dedication. She will be really missed.