

Finn Valley Riding Club

Affiliated to the British Horse Society

Newsletter - Autumn/Winter 2019



**Welcome to the
Autumn/Winter 2019
newsletter, with reports
from our members
representing Finn Valley
Riding Club at local and
regional events**

Area Showjumping

Report by Julia Hicks

The weather was perfect for the Area SJ at Geldeston – sunny but not boiling, and I arrived in good time to walk the courses, then watch the first few riders jump the 80cm. It was clearly rather slippery and I was glad to have studs. I went back to the trailer via the secretary's to drop off my passport and to check that it was OK for me to take Becca's place in the style. It turned out it was too late for that but then they offered me Emma's place in the other team so I accepted that. Of course by now I was getting short of time, as usual, so didn't have time to do the thorough grooming I had planned, just tacked up quickly, changed and jumped on. Luckily Sue spotted that I'd forgotten to take Lolly's tail bandage off and did the honours! The course seemed pretty tricky when we walked it but rode OK although I took some longer lines than I'd planned as a result of a little over-enthusiasm in the horse department. We went clear, which seemed like a good start, and then moved across to the style ring. After a bit of a wait we managed a clear in that too although I wasn't convinced the style had been great.

continued over...



Above: Style team Bella Staggs, Shirley Staggs, Sue Westmore and missing the picture, Julia Hicks

*"The course
seemed pretty
tricky when
we walked it"*



Page 3:
**Joe wins
80cm
and is
crowned
National
Champ!**

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FVRC website is a great source for up-to-date information www.finnvalleyridingclub.com

You can also find us on Facebook

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from previous page...

Back to the 80cm and the jumps seemed to go up quite a bit for the second round and the orange and blue parallel that had looked big before now looked really big! Lolly wasn't the least bit bothered though and happily jumped a second clear round. Pleased with a job reasonably well done I set off back to the trailer only to hear Lucy calling me and asking whether I was doing the jump off. I hadn't even thought about the fact that those with double clears jump off for the individual placings. Apologising to Lolly for having let her think she'd finished, I handed my mother the can of Seven Up that I'd just opened, climbed back on board and went in to jump first. This was definitely the biggest course we had ever jumped but after a slightly sticky start as we struggled to find a route to the first fence Lolly took it in her stride and jumped her fourth clear of the day. Having very little experience of jump-offs I didn't try to go fast and so was comprehensively beaten by Shirley and one or two other speed merchants but I'm proud to say that we weren't the slowest clear and ended up 5th. Of the 30+ riders who started the competition, there were only nine double clears, four



Left: Julia Hicks

Below:
Intermediate
Team
Championships -
Finn Valley's Pip
Davis and
Shannon Curtis

of whom were Finn Valley and six who jumped three clear rounds. Our teams were 1st, 4th and 5th in the 80cm and individuals were 1st (Shirley), 5th (me) and 6th (Pip) – fab results. It also turned out lucky for me that I took Emma's place rather than Becca's in the style as that made me part of the winning team! It had obviously gone better than I thought as we were third individually too. All in all, a very successful and enjoyable day.



Area Dressage – Geldeston

It was a busy day for Finn Valley at the Area Dressage at Geldeston kindly hosted by Marcia and Area 14. The ground conditions were perfect after all the rain we'd had and we had several new members out competing for the first time. First to go were the prelim riders in which we had three teams entered. The red team of myself, Tracey Keeley, Joe Mace and Maddy Girling came 6th, team Yellow of Shirley Stagg, Anne Corke, Joe and Jess Mace came 5th and the Pink team were unplaced despite some good individual placings. Some notable individual scores of Joe Mace and Ash Hill Blossom scoring 71% in prelim 14 to come 2nd and 67% on Carillion in the prelim 15 to come 3rd. Cheryl Tuner and Be a Rebel came 5th with 66% in the prelim 15. Sue Westmore, Anne Corke and Joe also picked up 6th place in their prelim tests. The senior open blue team of Joe, Luisa, Milly and Bella had a great day coming 3rd just missing out by a few points.

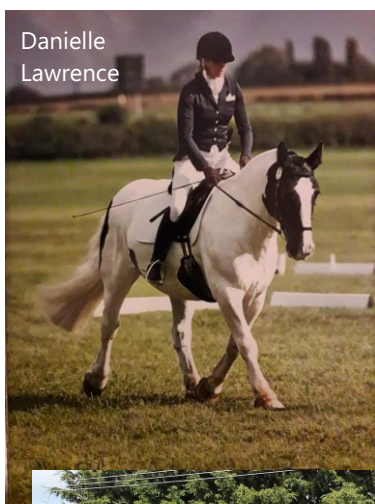
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**Left and far left -
top:** Jackie Street
Centre: Sarah lock
Bottom: Luisa
Edwardes



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Danielle
Lawrence

from previous page...

Bella Stagg won the novice 34 with 70% and came 2nd in the elementary 43 with 70%. Joe was 2nd in the novice 24 with 71%, James Smith was 4th in the elementary 43 with 65% and Luisa Edwardes picked up 5th and 6th in her two tests. The white team of Sue Leggett, Maddy, Pip and James just missed the top six placings.

We had two riders in the intro



James
Smith



Julia
Taylor



Jess Mace

tests, which is new for 2019.

Danielle Lawrence won this by more than 6% with Jackie Street taking 2nd place.

The last to go were the style riders. Judges slightly differently this year as prelim and novice tests were used.

Team orange came a close 2nd and team white 5th. Bella came 2nd in the novice 30 with a great score of 84% and Jess Mace was 4th with 74%.

Well done to everyone who took part. I am sure there will be some qualifications to the championships!



Sue Westmore



Right: Joe Mace wins the 80cm horse trials with Willow and is crowned National Champion!

Above and left: Riding into second place in the prelim dressage with Carillon at the National Championships



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Novice Dressage Area Qualifier - by Lucy Stagg

On Sunday 27th October we had the novice dressage qualifier which was held at Easton College near Norwich. It is a lovely venue with good surfaces, enough warm up space, a lovely cafeteria and nice warm loos!!

We had two teams and several individual competitors. Those who came were Jess Mace, Joe Mace, Libby Wilson-Smith, Cress Allman, Shirley Stagg, Anne Corke, Emma Sayer, Amy Brownlee, Luisa Edwardes and Bella Stagg.

The day went very smoothly and for once in October, it wasn't raining! Everybody rode really well and both horses and riders seemed to enjoy themselves. Sadly the teams didn't get placed but individually Joe won the Prelim 12, Jess came 2nd in the Prelim 7 and 6th in Prelim 12 and in the Intro. Libby came 4th and Cress was 6th.



Jess
Mace



Luisa
Edwardes

For those on young horses or are fairly new to team competitions, the Novice dressage is a really good place to start and hopefully we can have even more people having a go at the summer dressage competition next year. Many thanks to Julia for organising the entries and the teams and to Finn Valley for supporting our competitions.



"Great day on Sunday. 6th in our 1st class, no placing in the 2nd, but a respectable mark, so very pleased."

Cress Allman



Shirley Stagg



"Very successful trip for Ruby and Dinky at Junior Novice and Intermediate Winter Dressage at Grove House Farm. They came 6th with 65%. We managed to miss the rain too!"

New member, Ruby Allman, takes part in her first ever Riding Club competition!



Libby Wilson Smith at Lincoln Championships.

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Lincoln Championships

A Rookie's Experience of BRC Championships by Julia Hicks

This year I had my first experience of the Riding Clubs championships at Lincoln, taking part in the riding test and style jumping team competitions.

We set off on Friday lunchtime with car and trailer full to the brim. As we had to take shavings and hay there was no room for mucking out tools or wheelbarrow so I had to hope that I would be able to borrow what I needed (thanks Libby). The journey to Lincoln took far longer than we expected as the traffic was horrendous.

The site is huge, I had no idea of the scale of it - how many people & horses would be there, or how far it would be from the lorry park to the stables and arenas. However, it was very well organised and all the officials were friendly and helpful.

*"The site is huge,
I had no idea of
the scale of it"*

It felt as if it took hours to get booked in, cart stuff from the trailer to the stables, put shavings down, fill water buckets and wet hay before I could get Lolly tacked up and exercised for the day. The next problem then became obvious. Stupidly, I hadn't brought our shoeing appointment forward and although they were all fine when we set off, she had a loose shoe - by now I felt like going straight home as although there would be a farrier on site the next day my dressage was at 9.02, he wasn't due to be there until 8.30 and I just couldn't see how it was going to work. I couldn't work her that evening, so I was worried that she'd be too full of beans the next day. I was assured that my time could be altered but then how would I fit in my compulsory 'volunteer' stewarding duty? By the time she was



settled into her stable, we had walked the course for the next day & we left for our b&b it was dark, I was shattered and a bit despondent, feeling that I wouldn't be able to ride the next day and it had all been a complete waste of time.

On the day it all went well though. I cheered up, we got back to site in good time, plaited, tacked up & got dressed before heading over to the farrier who was there early. He fixed the shoe and we made it to the dressage for our original time, albeit with collar turned up & bits of stock flapping, as kindly pointed out by the tack check lady. Lolly was very excited while working in but the test went well and I was happy to score 73%.

I took her back to the trailer and leaving her to graze under the supervision of my mother, dashed off to do my 45 mins duty on the crossing gate.

After that there was a little time to take a breath before the style jumping. She seemed to have calmed down and was in sensible mode in the working in. It was just a pretence though as the moment we walked into the ring she was raring to go. I

managed to keep a lid on her while we saluted the judge and rode a figure of eight and then we were both happy to get jumping. She flew round, perhaps a little faster than ideally, but jumped beautifully and her shoes stayed on - mainly by will power.

Finally, time to muck out and I retrieved a bag full of clean shavings to take home. A small bonus.

I went over to the secretary's tent to find out how we were doing at which point three of the four riding test team members' scores were up and no style jumping. I couldn't make out how we were doing compared with other teams, the person I asked didn't know what time the presentations were planned for and in dread of an equally long journey home, and very tired, we decided to leave then. As it turned out, the team were third in the style and so were part of the mounted presentation and we missed it. I was sorry not to have been there but relieved to have left before the heavens opened and to get home in decent time. Sue kindly collected the huge rosette, sash and NAF voucher for me so I have proof that we did it!

*"with collar
turned up & bits
of stock flapping"*

In all, it was a long way to go and hard work but worth it for the experience and now I know the important things to remember if going again: allow plenty of time, then allow more time; set off early; squeeze a wheelbarrow in somehow if only for transporting things; explore the site on Friday evening so you know where everything is; consider staying Saturday night too and, obviously, don't set off with shoes on their limit!

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Pip Davis



One Day Event at Poplar Park

The ODE was held at Poplar on the 23rd June. The weather had been kind to us to the ground was perfect. This is an event we hosted so it is always a busy day and we are grateful to our riders that helped set up either before or after the event.

We started the day with the 80cm riders. We had three teams entered. Team yellow (Joe Mace, Shirley Stagg, Sue Leggett, Julia Hicks) finished 5th with Joe 2nd and Shirley 4th individually. Team blue (Anne Corke, Jenny James, Rebecca Brooks, Elodie Fonseca) were 6th. Team pink (Libby Wilson Smith, Sue Westmore, Lauren Steel, Amy Brownlee) just finished out of the placings. We also had one individual of Trish Niblock who had a good day representing the club for the first time. Our lone junior 80cm rider Lily Myers jumped a lovely clear but picked up a few time penalties. Next to go were the 90cm riders. Team purple (Pip Davis, Bella Stagg, Danielle Lawrence, Joe Mace) finished in 2nd by 0.2 of a penalty! Bella Stagg won her section and Joe came 3rd, so well done to them. We also had some

individual riders Lauren Steel, Jasmine Slater and Jenny James. Jasmine jumped a lovely double clear to finish 5th.

Dulcie Wade had a good SJ round but sadly things didn't go to plan in the XC. Andrew Taylor had a great day and finished 2nd and qualifying for the nationals!

*"a massive
thank you
to you all"*

Last to go were the 100cm Charlotte Long and Francesca Aitchison. Sadly, Charlotte WD after the dressage but Francesca had a great day coming 3rd in her section. Last to go was Milly Butters in the 100+cm Area 14 team. Despite some eliminations from her team Milly cruised round the XC to finish 4th and qualify for the championships.

We had in total 250 riders run over the day and without all our helpers and volunteers it just would not have been possible so a massive thank you to you all!

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS!

**Sarah Lock
Amy Brownlee
Olivia Griffin
Ruby Allman**

TRAINING:

Flat work with Tammy Ruffles

contact Laura Smith -

laurasmith1974@btinternet.com

Poles & jumping with Jonathon Allinson

contact Lucy Stagg -

lucystagg@btinternet.com

Dates for your Diary

Championship dates 2020

13-15 March Arena Eventing -

Washbrook Farm, Aston-le-Walls, NN11 6RT

28-29 March Novice Winter Champs -

Arena UK, Allington, NG32 2EF

24-26 April Intermediate Winter Champs -

Bury Farm EC, Slapton LU7 9BT

30-31 May FOTH -

Washbrook Farm, Aston-le-Walls, NN11 6RT

7-9 August Horse Trials -

Swalcliffe, Banbury OX15 5EX

5-6 Sept Nationals -

Lincoln Showground LN2 2NA

**Anything you would like
to add to the newsletter?**

Contact Julia Sheppard:

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