

OPEN SPRING HUNTER TRIAL

The Open Spring Hunter Trial took place at Geldeston on Sunday 28th April.

The Open 70cm class was the busiest of the day. The course was well built with solid fences that looked imposing but were all within or below height.

It rode well with most penalties being collected by riders at the first three fences. Once partnerships got away from the start few riders encountered problems.



Davina Cattermole & Hugo Boss

Davina Cattermole riding Hugo Boss won the class with a clear round and the quickest time through the timed section. Also clear and just 3.35 seconds slower through the timed section was Lee Wright riding Sally Payne's 'The Woodcutter'.

Thirteen pairs entered the Pairs competition which ran over the same 70cm course.

Davina (Hugo Boss) rode with Amy Oliver Squires (Shamus). They started with a very stylish performance on how to jump as a pair and were quickest through the timed section. But 5 penalties

for being half a horse's length apart at Fence 14, the sloping spread, meant they had to settle for second place.

The class was won by Jo O'Donoghue (Khan) and Carol Johnson (Bellamy) who were the only pair to finish without any penalty points.

Both the Restricted 85cm and the Open 85cm were well supported.

The timed section demanded accuracy and control but most riders executed this very well. Billie Fobbester looked tiny on top of the big, beautiful grey 'Atilla'. However they flew round clear taking just 29.87 seconds to negotiate the timed section to take first place.



Carol Johnson & Jo O'Donoghue

Flynn Regan (Knock on the Head) had the second fastest time through the time section in this class and looked like taking second place. However a moment's lapse of concentration resulted in a run out at the last fence giving them 20 penalties. This dropped them down the score board to seventh place.

The Open 85cm class was won by Alison Mann and 'Herma'. They were faultless and quick through the timed section. Second place went to Samantha Colman riding Michelle Colman's ever reliable and speedy 'Molly' who were just 2.09 seconds slower through the timed section.

Only two riders contested the Open 100cm class. This was the closest competition of the day.



Alison Mann & Herma

Both Charlotte Hipperson (Suburbia II) and Charlotte Cattermole (Wise Dennis) went clear round the course. However Charlotte and 'Suburbia II' were just 0.16 seconds faster through the timed section and took top honours.

It was a brilliant day for the club. Many thanks as always to all the jump judges, and everyone else that gives up their time to prepare, run and tidy up after these events.

Our next open cross country events are 7th July Eventer Challenge, 22nd September One Day Event and 13th October Autumn Hunter Trial. We hope to see you all again at these events.

Photos courtesy of STM Photographic Services.



Charlotte Hipperson & Suburbia II