

## OPEN ARENA LE TREC

Our Le Trec competition took place on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> August on the club field at Hall Farm, Geldeston.

Last year's competition had to be cancelled as the low entries and high cost of running the competition meant the club could not afford to go ahead with it.

However knowing that the regular supporters of this event really enjoy it and that the club strives to cater for all types of rider the committee sought ways of making the competition viable.



This has resulted in the format being changed. Instead of the obstacles being spread across a 4km route they were condensed into the club field. There were 15 obstacles that could be negotiated with each one carrying a maximum of 10 marks available to the competitor. Nothing was compulsory.

The obstacles included our new footbridge that was ridden over and the new 'branches' that had to be ridden under.

The class structure was also changed. Instead of the usual Junior and Senior classes there were four classes – junior riders on ponies, senior riders on ponies, junior riders on horses and senior riders on horses. It was felt that this would make the competition fairer as nimble ponies tend to find most obstacles easier than large horses.

The control of pace was retained although the distance was slightly reduced due to the smaller area available. This exercise seems simple enough – canter a straight 'corridor' as slowly as possible and return in walk as quickly as possible. However it is much more difficult to execute well and there are 60 marks available in this task.

Susannah Close and 'Prince Albert' produced the best accurate slow canter gaining 27 points out of a possible 30. However the return walk only accrued them 3 marks as it was also rather slow. Rachel Ashford and 'Rowley' gave the best fast walk gaining 14 marks but conversely they had too fast a time in canter to add to that score.

There were a number of competitors that failed to maintain the required pace for the entire length of the course and this resulted in no marks being awarded.

Obstacle 4 the Maypole caused the most problems for people.

One of only two juniors taking part was new member Cheyanne Bloomfield riding her pretty pony 'Have a Hope'. Both were smartly turned out.



**Cheyanne Bloomfield & 'Have a Hope'**

They were the only competitors in Class A Junior rider (16 yrs and under) on a pony (14.2hh or under) and finished on a score total of 117. They were one of only 5 competitors to score the maximum 10 in the bending obstacle.



Amanda Talbot & 'Chaz' on COP

There were 5 competitors in Class B – senior riders on ponies. This was won by Sue Stock and 'Pandora'. Their score of 17 for the slow canter helped to counteract their low score in the rein back and they finished on a total score of 130.

Second place went to Anne Broadhurst and 'Amy' who were one of the few that gained marks in both the canter and the walk sections of the COP. They finished on a total score of 117.

The other junior entry Leanne Kelly and 'Bruno VI' were the only competitors in Class C – Junior rider on a horse (over 14.2hh). They collected 9 perfect 10 scores over the course finishing on a total of 146.

Class D – Senior riders on horses had 6 competitors. This was won by Susannah Close and 'Prince Albert' with the highest overall mark of the day which was 150.

They had an excellent start at the Control of Pace (COP) which they followed up with perfect 10 scores over 8 other obstacles. These included the rein back which is an obstacle that many people found difficult to perform well.

Second place went to Rachel Ashford and 'Rowley'. They managed 10 perfect scores across the course but their fast canter and difficulties with Obstacle 4 meant they could not close the gap on Susannah and finished on a score of 140.

Everyone taking part seemed to enjoy themselves and thought the new format worked well. The hacking element across the park was missed by some but they appreciated the reasons for the change in format and were pleased that the competition remained available to them.

Thank you to Claire Drewery for organising the day and to everyone who helped set the course up, volunteered as judges, stewards and scorers and to those that helped clear up afterwards. Without your help we could not have gone ahead.

Finally thank you to all the competitors who supported the day.