

Jersey Horse Driving Society

On April 17th the first Outdoor Trials of the season were held by the Jersey Horse Driving Society based at their St. Lawrence club field.

The dressage judged by Annabelle Godfray was longer than usual and a new element was to drive part of the test with reins in one hand. Some quick learning had to be done as only week before competitors drove a completely different test in an arena half the size. Best dressage was awarded to Rachelle Bownes driving Pocket Rocket eleven points ahead of Julie Chalker driving Sparky.

The next of the three phases was the cross country consisting of six timed obstacles which were part of an eight kilometer course which also had to be driven to a specified time. The winner of this section was Emma Le Marquand driving Pip with Julie Chalker just under five seconds behind. Having placed second in the first two sections Julie won the best cones rosette with only 2.07 penalties for being slightly faster than the optimum time.

Nine competitors competed in three size related classes plus a Preliminary class for novice ponies or drivers who have not obtained three firsts. In the horse class it was good to see David Gicquel driving Taffy on home soil as he has been competing more regularly in France. Margaret Robinson driving Gemma usually the only competitor showed that she could still win with a challenger in this class. Julie Chalker had a clear win in the large pony class. Sheila Vetier driving Charlie came second with June Vibert very close behind. The small pony class was won by Emma Le Marquand driving Pip who won two of the three sections from Carl Gallichan with Homer. Margaret Littlechild driving Maddy was second to Rachelle in the Preliminary class but as it was their first time together in the trials Margaret was pleased with her results.

The day ended with a cones competition between the grooms which was won by Ellen Littlechild.

Results:

Horses: 1, Margaret Robinson (Gemma) 300.09; 2, David Gicquel (Taffy) 391.99.

Ponies ex.12.2h.h. 1, Julie Chalker (Sparky) 137.08; 2, Sheila Vetier (Charlie) 200.14; 3, June Vibert (Robin) 202.72.

Ponies 12.2h.h. & under: 1, Emma Le Marquand (Pip) 149.61; 2, Carl Gallichan (Homer) 168.48.

Prelims: 1, Rachelle Bownes (Pocket Rocket) 136.63; 2, Margaret Littlechild (Maddie) 212.23.

Grooms cones: 1, Ellen Littlechild (Homer) 8.45; 2, Laura Jeffreys (Charlie) 16.02; 3, John Vibert (Robin) 16.36; 4, Zoë Gallichan (Pip) 19.58; 5, Kieran O'Connor (Pocket Rocket) 29.03; 6, Shirley Williams (Maddy) 31.06; 7, Kim Gallichan (Gemma) 31.95.