

BVRC Team News 2019

Chef d'Equipe: Susie Pool

Sous Chef d'Equipe: Lynn Mead

Winter Novice & Intermediate Show Jumping Qualifiers, Moreton EC –Sunday 17th February

<u>80/85 Team – 4th</u>		<u>90/95 Team – 2nd</u>	
Frances Hall	Bellindene Magnum	Jenny Allan	Redhill Corporal
Kay Pogson	Something Special II	Joanna Murphy	Woodlands United 1 st
Emma Cory-Wright	Hickory Dickory Sock	Jane Winson	Treehoo Franks Clover
Nicola Scivier	Little Mount Woodbine	Susie Pool	Dubai 5 th
<u>100/105 Team – 3rd</u>		<u>110/115 Team</u>	
Katie Mortimore	Kerslake Moor 3 rd	Nicki Strong	Pha Mai Blue
Megan Brown	Don Stefano	Megan Brown	Some Spring 5 th
Sophie Clotworthy	Bailey's Spirit	Helen Vernon	That's Illogical 6 th
Hani Milstein	Opposition Da Vinci	Hani Milstein	Flying Dutchman
<u>Individuals</u>			
90	Lisa Pritchard	Eros Van De Brouwershoeve	
100	Tessa Broadhead	Ballinagore Flash 6 th	

We had a fun warm (ish) 17 February to kick off 2019 area qualifiers with the Winter Novice and Intermediate Showjumping Qualifier at Moreton Equestrian Centre. Two excellent arenas and 135 people taking part over the four class heights of 80cm, 90, 100 and 110. We welcomed two new team members in Emma Cory-Wright with Socks in the 80 and Megan Brown with Springy (110) and Don Stefano (100).

First up at 8.30am (so a very early start for some!) was the 110 team in the new arena, sadly down to three members as Nicky and Blue were not able to join us due to veterinary reasons. This is the first time we have had a 110 team in a large number of years so it was great to have Hani, Helen and Megan being competitive at this height. Megan finished 5th and Helen 6th, unfortunately it wasn't Hani and Jake's day this time. It happens to us all, particularly when we wish to examine the surface a little more closely than intended! There was a particularly tricky turn from fence 3 to 4 which caught out quite a few in both the 110 and the 90 classes in this arena. Onwards and upwards...

The 80 team was next up in the bus arena. Frances jumped Snoopy for the first time in ages since his long holiday and he was keen - they looked great but a sat nav error meant an E. With some encouragement from Tony and myself their next round was a super confident clear for just 3 time faults resulting in big smiles afterwards. Kay's new ride Something Special jumped two lovely rounds for one unlucky rail in each so they were thrilled after a delay getting to the venue meaning a re-jigged start time. Emma jumped a lovely clear round with Socks in the first round, and just rolled two in the second round. Nicola also had a super clear in the first round, followed by a slightly higher scoring round in the second round. Everyone had fun and the team finished 4th overall which was great (after a scoring adjustment).

In the 90 we had Lisa and Eros as an individual and a team of four (Jenny Allan and Corporal, Joanna Murphy and Herbie, Jane Winson and Frank and Susie and Dubai). What can we say but Joanna and Herbie rule the 90!! A triple clear including a very speedy jump off means three qualifiers and three

Championship qualifications in a row this time Joanna is on a mission for a double clear after just tipping a pole in the Winter SJ Champs last year. Good luck!! Joanna was joined by an overjoyed Susie with Dubai - this pair are having a ball now and really are a partnership having great fun. A double clear and an unlucky rail in a quick jump off meant 5th overall - fantastic! Jane and the plaited young Frank (who stands over 17hh with very long legs :-)) had two good rounds - clear in the first and one unlucky rub in the second round. Jenny had a few steering problems with a big jumping Corporal so she had her hands full in their first jumping show in a while. They will have their day again - we've seen them have lots of fun before! The team came 2nd overall which was great. Our individual in the 90 Lisa and Eros also had a great day with a lovely clear in the first round and just tipping a pole in the second round. The picture below of the 5 riders (three mounted) is our 90 team and Lisa.

The 100 team were last up in the bus arena with Katie and Bea, Megan and Don Stefano, Hani and Da Vinci and Sophie and Tattie. Katie was rocking it in the 100 cheered on by Helen and Amber! A fast cheerful ever enthusiastic double clear and an unlucky pole in the jump off (really speedy!) meant individual 3rd place. Amber is showing us all Mummy's rosette in the picture below. Megan had two good rounds for an unlucky pole in each round. Sophie and Tattie had a great clear in the first round and a rail and time in the second round. Hani had a good first round for one pole, but an unlucky second round. Some days it goes like that! Our 100 individual was Tessa Broadhead and the big young Irish Ballinagore Flash. Flash has a huge jump making the fences seem small - a lovely clear in the first round, and two green jumping poles in the second meant this was a great early outing for them both. Much more to come with this combination!

Everyone was pleased to be able to blow off the cobwebs and have a good jump round fun courses on good surfaces. The challenge to all was the later classes running well ahead of time which meant that the planned running order was discarded so, as Susie put it; *"Very stressed by the abandonment of times and running orders but my wonderful horse was unphased and made up for it with a double clear and great effort in the jump-off. Love her."*

Top turnout goes to Jane Winson and Frank who with their full clip and plaits looked very smart ☺
Top marks for consistency go to Joanna Murphy with Herbie ...three 90 Championship qualifications in a row ☺.

Apologies no pictures of our 110 team as I was doing warm up fences before nipping across to do fences for our 80 team!

Lynn Mead

Arena Eventing Championships, Washbrook Farm, Aston-le-Walls – Sunday 10th March

Class	Rider	Horse	Jumping Penalties	Time Pens	Team Place
SENIOR 100	Hani Milstein	Flying Dutchman	8	?	9 th
SENIOR 100	Katie Mortimore	Kerslake Moor	4	2.8	
SENIOR 100	Helen Vernon	That's Illogical	10	?	
SENIOR 100	Annabel Mead	Wujiwoo	E		

The afternoon before the Championships, poor Nicki Strong had to withdraw due to Blue having a 4" gash under his armpit. After several phone calls (amazingly, I had quite a lot to choose from capable of 100cm eventing!), Annabel Mead said she'd fill the team place. Brilliant of her at such short notice!! It was a good day but not great. Annabel was the only clear SJ but was eliminated at a big ditch & hedge at Fence 3 of the XC style jumps, Fence 2 being water! Despite Bea nearly stopping at the first

SJ fence and being in a particularly grumpy mood, Katie produced the best round of the team with 6.8 penalties (16th). Hani had a stop and one down SJ, clear XC and Helen had a SJ down plus the joker (6 faults) and we finished with Team 9th. Soon after the last horse completed, horizontal snow came in!

Susie Pool

Winter Intermediate Dressage Qualifier, Crofton Manor EC –Saturday 23rd March

Blue Team

Rider	Horse	Test	%	Place/ (Points)
Francis Ridley	Forsmiles	P13	63.65	(17)
Annie Rae	Mrs Pickle	N28	65.62	(8)
Sarah Pook	D'Oro Mio	N34	67.38	4 th
Susie Pool	Dubai	E42	57.03	(20)

White Team

Rider	Horse	Test	%	Place/ (Points)
Lisa Pritchard	Eros	P13	62.88	(19)
Emily Barker	Darclando	N28	61.45	(17)
Fiona Scott	Freddie	N34	63.33	(18)
Helen Vernon	That's Illogical	E42	E	E

Individuals

Rider	Horse	Test	%	Place/ (Points)
Jenny Allan	Redhill Corporal	P13	69.04	6 th
Helen Vernon	Quarry Bank	P13	64.62	
Nicola Scivier	Little Mount Woodbine	P13	60.58	
Briony Tarlton	Orion's Jaffa	P13	68.85	
Annie Rae	Mrs Pickle	P13	70.77	4 th
Lisa Pritchard	Eros	N28	68.13	
Susie Pool	Dubai	N34	64.52	
Elizabeth Peerless	Smashing Pumpkin	AM90	63.16	2 nd

Not one of our best events. Helen (Splodge) and Susie (Dubai) both did Elementary tests they'd rather forget and were team discard scores. Both horses seemed to suffer brain/body seize in the indoor school! The best result of the day was:

Elizabeth Peerless – Smashing Pumpkin: AM90 Arena 2nd and qualified for the Championships on Friday 26th April, the same day as Helen Vernon in 110/115 SJ.

Well done also to Annie Rae and Jenny Allan for individual placings in the Prelim 13 arenas and Sarah Pook in Novice 34.



Annie Rae – Mrs Pickle



Sarah Pook – D'Oro Mio



A family affair! Emily Barker – Darclando



Elizabeth Peerless – Smashing Pumpkin

Susie Pool

FOTH Challenge Qualifier, Moreton EC – Sunday 14th April

Class	Rider	Horse	Penalties	Place	Team Place
SENIOR 80	Frances Hall	Bellindene Magnum	8.0		3rd (35.4)
SENIOR 80	Kay Pogson	Something Special II	21.8		
SENIOR 80	Annie Rae	Mrs Pickle	5.6	5 th	
SENIOR 80	Susie Pool	Dubai	25.6		
SENIOR 90	Briony Tarlton	Orion's Jaffa	15.6		--
SENIOR 90	Helen Vernon	Quarry Bank	22.4		
SENIOR 90	Jane Winson	Treehoo Franks Clover	E		
SENIOR 100	Megan Brown	Don Stefano	14.4	4th	

We entered a team at each of 100, 90 and 80 though initially only the 100 was a team of 4. Briony Tarlton filled the 4th place in the 90 team but the 80 remained as a 3. However, Susie had a couple of falls XC leading up to the Qualifier so decided to drop down to the 80 team instead so that was a team of 4 and the 90s a team of 3.

There was a fall on the XC course just before our 80 team members started and they were held for about 45 minutes between the SJ and XC. Thankfully our combinations were unaffected and all jumped clear. Susie & Dubai jumped double clear and she was thrilled but had a lot of time

penalties. Annie Rae on Mrs Pickle also jumped double clear in a better time and were individually 5th. The Team were 3rd. The 3-man 90 Team were eliminated because Jane Winson missed out a XC fence so they only had 2 scores to count. Sadly, these weren't good enough for individual places.

The 100 Team disintegrated before it started. Helen Vernon had had to withdraw Splodge due to unsoundness soon after Prelim Entries, then Nicki Strong had to withdraw when Blue went lame. The remaining 2 were informed there was no team and they would be riding as individuals so Hani Milstein decided to re-route to Bovington BE. Megan Brown was our only representative and came 4th. As there was no 100 team, an Area 17 Team was given permission to go to the Championships, including Megan, with one New Forest RC and 2 Purbeck RC members.

Susie Pool

FOTH Combined Training Qualifier, Crofton Manor EC – Friday 19th April

Test/Height	Rider	Horse	%	SJ	Arena Place	Team Points
Blue Team – 4th						14
HT90Q/75cm	Frances Hall	Bellindene Magnum	67.00	0	4 th	3
HT90Q/75cm	Kay Pogson	Something Special II	69.25	0	6 th	4
HT100Q/85cm	Annie Rae	Mrs Pickle	70.53	13		12
HT100Q/85cm	Lisa Pritchard	Eros Van de Brouwershoeve	64.21	4		7
White Team						19
HT90Q/75cm	Jenny Allan	Redhill Corporal	70.25	E		E
HT90Q/75cm	Claire Arnold	Sunjeeb	66.50	0		7
HT100Q/85cm	Alison Coleman	Graigue Hero	70.26	0	3 rd (6 th o/a)	3
HT100Q/85cm	Sarah Pook	D'Oro Mio	65.79	8		9
Individuals						
HT90Q/75cm	Frances Ridley	Forsmiles	65.75	4		
HT100Q/85cm	Emma Cory-Wright	Hickory Dickory Sock	64.74	4		

I was very disappointed to have made more mistakes with the preparations for this Qualifier than ever before. We competed as planned with 2 teams and 2 individuals but I had to back out in order to enter Sarah Pook, who had been the first to apply (by email only) but then I missed her off my list! The Blue Team produced a creditable 4th place. The dressage marks in one of the Prelim Arenas were surprisingly generous but as it is placings not percentages that count, it didn't have much effect. Jenny Allan had a very unlucky SJ round when Corporal spooked at a jump under a skylight then over-jumped it and she came off. It was very disappointing for her to be eliminated when she lay 1st after Dressage! Unfortunately, there was a mix up over the results as BRC had refused to provide rosettes for both arenas due to the low numbers. As a result, the arena scores had to be merged for final individual results and Alison Coleman on Graigue Hero was our only rider to get a rosette (6th).

Susie Pool

Winter Intermediate Championships, Bury Farm EC – Saturday 27th April

We were supposed to be going to Bury Farm to support 3 individuals at these Championships competing on 2 days. However, it was very sad that Jo Murphy had to withdraw “Herbie” from the 90/95 SJ and Helen Vernon had to withdraw “Splodge” from the 110/115 SJ. So, Lindsay and I just drove up to the Winter Intermediate Championships at Bury Farm for the day to support Elizabeth Peerless and Smashing Pumpkin in the PYO Medium/Advanced Medium Dressage Championship. They made it worth our while by coming =3rd in the Advanced Medium after they split the class. Overall they were =9th; a great result! A happy ending to a bit of a dismal run up. Well done Elizabeth.

Susie Pool

FOTH Challenge Championships, Aston-le-Walls – Saturday 18th May

HUGE CONGRATULATIONS! FOTH CHALLENGE 100 CHAMPIONS!!



Megan Brown & Don Stefano in action; on the XC phase and over the bounce of planks in the SJ



Kathy Laurence, Amber Mael, Kate Brown and Megan Brown

BVRC Member Megan Brown was part of an Area 17 team competing at the Challenge 100 Championships. Lindsay Hills and Sandra Groves went to watch and support the team, who did brilliantly over a testing show jumping course and XC track to take the win! Making up the team were Purbeck riders Amber Mael riding Mini Jack and Kathy Laurence on Kilnamono Dato and New Forest member Kate Brown riding Damson Bay Buttons. Being a championship, there is usually something a bit different and this included a bounce of planks in the show jumping – although there was a longer alternative route of a double of uprights – and there was comment that there were lots of skinnies on the XC. The courses at Aston were immaculately prepared. Amber started the team off but fell foul of the planks for 4 faults in the show jumping. She was awarded 20 XC penalties in the water combination as her horse was strong and she had to do a small loop between the B and C

elements. This had always been her 'Plan B' and after an appeal by her father and acting Chef d'Equipe Bob, the penalties were rescinded so with the 4.8 XC time penalties she finished on a score of 8.8. Kate was next to go and did a perfect clear SJ round, including going the longer alternative route to avoid the planks bounce. As this had been her plan, she was able to take some tighter lines and not incur time penalties in this phase. Sadly, she had a stop fairly early on the XC but still managed to make up time to come home one second under the optimum to finish on a score of 20.4. Next up Kathy too had a fault free show jumping round including negotiating the bounce of planks. She then stormed round the XC to finish 10 seconds under the optimum time completing with just 4 time faults (in this competition you have to be bang on the optimum time not to incur faults so either over or under the time accrues 0.4 penalties per commenced second). Kathy's 4 faults earned her a brilliant individual 7th place. By the time final member Megan riding Don Stefano jumped, the team was on a roll as she too produced a clear show jumping round and stormed quite quickly round the XC to come in 18 seconds under the optimum giving her 7.2 penalties. The best three scores gave a team total of 20 resulting in the win, 2 penalties ahead of second place and in the competition of all four scores to count, finished second. There were sashes and rosettes galore in the prize giving along with a splendid Silver Salver for the team to keep for a year. When Lindsay and I left there was a discussion going on amongst the team members as to who was going to have possession of the Salver first – not a bad problem to have!!

Sandra Groves

Horse Trials Qualifier, Moreton EC – Sunday 26th May

What a fabulous day at The Area 17 Horse Trials Qualifier for BVRC! Four teams were entered, one at each height of 80, 90, 100 and 100+. But for the lameness of Dubai, all 4 teams would have been complete teams of 4.

80 Team – 6th

Frances Hall
Kay Pogson
Nicola Scivier
Ella Birch

Bellindene Magnum – 7th
Something Special II
Little Mount Woodbine
Corbieres Dancer

90 Team – 4th

~~Susie Pool~~
Helen Vernon
Briony Tarlton
Stephen Coulson

~~Dubai~~
Quarry Bank
Orion's Jaffa
Copperfield Celebrity



Frances - Bellindene Magnum



Kay – Something Special II



Nicola – Little Mount Woodbine



Ella – Corbieres Dancer



The 90 Team, with a few extra photos of “Betty” as a tribute to the Coulson’s mare who they sadly lost to an injury a few months ago.



100 Team – 1st

Tessa Broadhead
Hani Milstein
Marion Watt
Katie Mortimore

Ballinagore Flash
Opposition Da Vinci – 3rd
Springaway – 1st
Kerslake Moor – 5th

100 + Team – 1st

Nicki Strong
Tessa Broadhead
Hani Milstein
Marion Watt

Pha Mai Blue – 4th
Arkansas Rebel – 5th
Flying Dutchman – 3rd
Burnock Bright Limit – 1st



Katie – Kerslake Moor



Marion Watt - Springaway



Nicki – Pha Mai Blue



Marion – Burnock Bright Limit



Thanks as ever to Lynn Mead for her energetic Cheffing skills and filling our stewarding duty when others couldn't, Sandra Groves for all the amazing photos, and Lindsay Hills for her dedicated support.

Susie Pool

“Kizzi” displaying all Marion’s rosettes from the day

Summer Show and Style Jumping Qualifier, Moreton EC – Sunday 6th July

70 Team – 1st

Frances Hall	Mallards Wood Corunna	4 th
Kay Pogson	Something Special II	6 th
Frances Ridley	Forsmiles	3 rd
Elizabeth Chamberlin	Henry	1 st

90 Team – 1st

Alison Coleman	Graigue Hero	2 nd
Lynn Mead	Mexico's Mission	
Helen Vernon	Quarry Bank	
Susie Pool	Dubai	1 st

80 Team – 4th

Nicola Scivier	Little Mount Woodbine
Emma Cory-Wright	Mister Socks
Ella Birch	Corbieres Dancer
Frances Hall	Bellindene Magnum – 7 th

Style Team – 1st

Emma Cory-Wright	Mister Socks	1 st
Frances Hall	Bellindene Magnum	2 nd
Helen Vernon	Quarry Bank	5 th
Susie Pool	Dubai	4 th

The results do make it look like an amazingly successful day for BVRC. It wasn't quite so amazing as disappointingly there were so few teams entered by other Clubs. We were the only 70 team and one of 2 in each of the 90cm and Style Jumping which is such a shame. Nevertheless, Emma and Socks did a lovely round in the 75cm Style Jumping to produce an individual win, with Frances and Snoopy 2nd. Their excellent worked dragged Helen and me up for a team win. After our arrhythmic and not forward Style Round, Dubai and I improved in the 90 and 95cm rounds and produced the only double clear for another individual win. In this inaugural 70cm SJ class Elizabeth Chamberlin and Henry produced a fluent couple of rounds for an individual win in that class too. Excitingly, this meant that BVRC would be sending 3 jumping teams to the National Championships at Lincoln – should be quite a party!!

Susie Pool

Summer Dressage & Riding Test Qualifier, Hurn EC – Sunday 21st July

Prelim Team – 2nd

Rider	Horse	Test	%	Place/ (Points)
Emma Cory-Wright	Mister Socks	P12	69.25	1 st
Jenny Allen	Redhill Corporal	P13	66.54	3 rd
Frances Hall	Bellindene Magnum	P14	62.12	7 th
Grace Wilkinson	Ocus Pocus	P15	68.20	4 th (3)

Open Team – 2nd

Rider	Horse	Test	%	Place/ (Points)
Helen Vernon	Quarry Bank	N24	66.09	2 nd (2)
Sarah Pook	D'Oro Mio	N34	67.14	2 nd (1)
Lynn Mead	Mexico's Mission	N38	W/D	W/D
Susie Pool	Dubai	E43	67.93	3 rd (2)

Blue RT Team – 2nd

Rider	Horse	Test	%	Place/ (Points)
Frances Hall	Mallards Wood Corunna	P RT	60.91	5 th
Emma Cory-Wright	Mister Socks	P RT	63.64	4 th
Susie Pool	Dubai	N RT	82.72	2 nd
Sarah Pook	D'Oro Mio	N RT	85.00	1 st

White RT Team – 3rd

Rider	Horse	Test	%	Place/ (Points)
Grace Wilkinson	Ocus Pocus	P RT	65.00	3 rd
Louise Egginton	Edmonstown Pat	P RT	60.00	6 th
Helen Vernon	Quarry Bank	N RT	75.91	5 th
Jenny Tanner	Standlynch Osiris	N RT	72.72	6 th

Pairs

Rider	Horse	Test	%	Place/ (Points)
Jenny Tanner	Standlynch Osiris	Pairs	66.78	2 nd
Frances Ridley	Forsmiles			

Individuals

Rider	Horse	Test	%	Place/ (Points)
Elizabeth Chamberlain	Sparrows Hawkeye	Intro B	63.04	4 th
Louise Egginton	Edmonstown Pat	Intro B	63.26	3 rd
Elizabeth Chamberlain	Sparrows Hawkeye	P12	64.07	5 th
Frances Ridley	Forsmiles	P13	64.80	6 th

It was a bit of a nightmare start to the day. Lynn Mead was supposed to be Chef d'Equipe as well as competing so I arrived early to be on the ground when she was competing. As she started warming up, the lovely Lilly went hopping lame. There was no sign of anything but she wouldn't take any weight on it. I fetch my cold boots, bandages and first aid kit and we discussed how near we could get the lorry after taking the string down to get her out of the warm up arena. Having strapped her up with a cold boot underneath we persuaded her to move and walk over the string. She then seemed to realize that she wasn't quite so crippled and started walking better and better. We



abandoned the idea of moving the lorry and she walked all the way, getting almost sound. Lynn took her straight home and it transpired she had a badly bruised foot – when or how we can't be sure. Poor Lynn – all that way and all that effort to ride for a couple of minutes.

Luckily for the rest of us the rest of the day went better but it was pretty full on with so many of us competing and not very many other Clubs sending competitors. Sandra Groves did a great job helping on the ground when necessary as well as taking videos or photos of as many of us as she could. None of the teams Qualified but individually, Emma C-W and Mister Socks qualified with a win in Prelim 12, as did Sarah Pook on D'Oro Mio in the Novice RT. As Sarah was unable to go to the Championships, this Qualification passed to me, having been placed 2nd. So we now had 2 Dressage individuals to add to the 70, 90 and Style Jumping Teams going to Lincoln! Grace Wilkinson also received an invitation as the highest placed rider not in a winning team in the

Prelim RT. Dubai was going to be a busy horse being in the 90 SJ Team (2 rounds), the Style Jumping Team and an individual Riding Test!!
Susie Pool



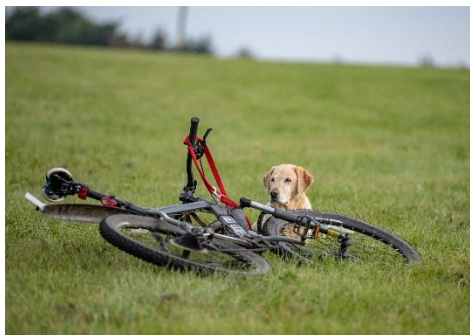
BRC Horse Trials Championships, Swalcliffe EC – Friday 2nd - Sunday 4th August

At the end of May, we Qualified two 4-man teams for the British Riding Clubs National Horse Trials Championships. One of the complications was that 3 of the members were in both the 100 team and 100+ team, the 4th members being Katie Mortimore on Helen Nash-Steer's Bea in the 100 and Nicki Strong on Blue in the 100+. The nuclei of the teams were Hani Milstein on Opposition Da Vinci (100) and Flying Dutchman (Jake) (100+), Marion Watt on Springaway (Kizzie) (100) and Burnock Bright Limit (Rosie) (100+) and Tessa Broadhead on Ballinagore Flash (100) and Arkansas Rebel (100+). With 9 weeks between Qualifiers and Champs, I had every expectation that things would change, and Marion had always said that Rosie wouldn't be doing the Champs. I hadn't anticipated



the infinite number of changes in the 4 days before departure though, going from 4-man teams to 3, back to 4 then 3 again, sometimes in the space of a few hours! I won't share the stresses of these days, simply to say that Katie and Nicki had to pull out, Marion had to pull Kizzie, and change the horse she replaced Rosie with and it was all FAR more complicated than that!! In an effort to make a full Area 17 team in the 100+, we adopted Megan Breslin and Moorlough Billy of Purbeck RC. Unfortunately, the Rules didn't allow her to join us at such a late stage but she and her Mum Alex, joined our

camp nonetheless. Also part of our camp were Tessa's partner Peter and her daughter Phoebe with good friend Emma.



We started the Champs with 2 teams of 3; both Tessa's two and Hani's two intact, plus Marion with the evergreen Pauldary's Tiger Woods (Woody) (100+) only back in work 11 weeks after damaging 10 ribs in a field accident last November, and last minute replacement Briony Tarlton with Orion's Jaffa after only one previous 100 run recently. In a long format 3-Day Event, there are 3 elements, one with 4 phases, plus 3 vet checks. Everyone passed the 1st Trot Up successfully, early on Friday morning and progressed to the dressage, in long arenas. Tessa completed her first ever long arena test, Woody achieved a PB, Briony was pleased but Hani was bitterly disappointed with her scores. However, the dressage is merely the start and there's a long way to go to completion. I also had a first for the Champs; having been Chef d'Equipe every year we have qualified since



2004 except 2012 when Mike lost his battle with cancer, I had the sheer delight of actually riding. Marion had brought Rosie as a companion and gave the ride to me for the hack round the Phase A and Phase C Roads & Tracks - I was very emotional to be sitting on a horse, so just imagine if I ever get to compete there! Our first prize-winner was Peter, who won the Best Volunteer Award for Friday afternoon. Many thanks to him for doing one of our official duties and to Phoebe & Emma for relieving Briony halfway through the 2nd duty to allow her to hack round the roads & tracks.



After lots of preparations regarding speeds, distances and times for the 4 phases of the Speed & Endurance, courses walked, and roads and tracks ridden, Saturday morning dawned with lots of trepidation and excitement. Hani and Da Vinci were our trailblazers and set a high standard with a clear inside the time across all 4 phases. Lynn Mead had joined us for the day to provide part of the support crew in the 10-minute box and was very much appreciated. Tessa and her 5-year old Flash were next out and returned to the 10-minute box completely thrilled with their Steeplechase phase! They completed a great XC round with only one glance off at the skinny brush after the main water beside the busy SJ and trade-stand area. Although disappointed with the 20 penalties, Tessa was still pleased with the way Flash coped with everything. Briony and Jaffa were next and had a ball round the steeplechase and came back fired up for the XC, some of which had given Briony concerns in her course walk. Her fears were unfounded as Jaffa stormed round taking all the combinations in his stride with only a few seconds over the optimum time. So, the 100 team all safely home.



The trailblazers for the 100+ were Marion and Woody. Having only come back into work a few weeks earlier and being slightly lame a couple of days before due to an over-reach, there was always a worry about passing the vet checks. However, superstar Woody trotted into the box perfectly and didn't even need a 2nd heart rate check before going XC. As if he'd not been off work for 7 months, Woody then cruised round the XC clear inside the time, with Marion slowing him down before the last fence, and finished with a big smile on his face ☺. Hani and Jake were next and were doing brilliantly until 4 fences from home, where Jake took advantage of Hani enjoying it too much and slid off an angled brush before re-taking it easily. Last to go was Tessa and Rebel, who by then had another daughter to help in the 10-minute box. Thankfully I told Tessa to sit down away from the girls and concentrate on the course ahead of her and the differences between that and the morning course. We then discovered that she thought it was the same!! Thankfully only 2 were different and I verbally explained the way to go. Tessa showed amazing guts to take on the much more difficult water and huge determination to jump the log-drop when Rebel was reluctant, and to recover to clear the skinny brush out. Despite the positive riding the pause was sufficient to incur 20 penalties but they too completed with only a few time penalties. So, the 100+ team were all safely home too.

That evening we had an enjoyable team gathering in the Club Gazebo, chatting about horses and recounting the day's events.



Sunday morning dawned and the next nail-biting phase to pass was the final trot-up. Sadly, Jake didn't get through with a barely perceptible unlevelness (only on the pea-shingle trot up track not the grass), so with that we lost our 100+ team. The 100s then show jumped and Hani and Da Vinci posted a beautiful clear to finish on their dressage score, which cheered her up a lot. This pulled them up to an Arena 8th place and rosette. Tessa then jumped Flash and rolled one pole. Briony started her round fluently but their lack of match practice at this level showed in the one-stride double when Jaffa tried to chip in a 2nd, found himself too close to take off and fired Briony elegantly over the jump to land on her feet, for which she received a standing ovation! Sadly, this resulted in elimination and also an end to the 100 team.





The show jumping is run in reverse order so this time Marion jumped near the end as they were lying Arena 3rd with only 2 penalties separating the top 4. Tessa and Rebel jumped another positive round only brushing one pole then we all held our breaths watching Marion and Woody. The ever-cool Marion and the talented Woody pulled off a clear to hold their position. Then the 2nd placed rider had a few down and Marion moved up to a fantastic 2nd place!! Totally brilliant!



As ever, huge thanks to Lindsay for driving up each day to support everyone and Sandra for the wonderful photos. They can all be viewed here: <https://sandragroves.zenfolio.com/f348483771>.

It really was a great weekend with everyone having big positives to take home which hopefully minimise the disappointments that some suffered. We all want to try to Qualify next year, including me, this time as a rider. PROVISIONALLY WANTED: willing Chef d'Equipe for 2020 Horse Trials Champs, Thu 6th – Sun 9th August!!

Susie Pool

BRC National Championships, Lincoln Showground – Saturday 31st August

My experience of the BRC National Championships 2019 at Lincoln Showground - Kay Pogson

We had a long journey up to Lincoln – Frances Ridley driving her lorry and my husband driving behind in the car. It took about 7 hours due to heavy traffic, we were very glad when we arrived. After a passport check and joining other BVRC members we put our horses Minnie and Smiles in the temporary stables. Later we went to the B&B whilst Frances stayed at the showground and slept in her lorry as did some others.

Next morning the horses seemed relaxed. We did stable duties, plaited and walked the SJ course. We had three members in 70cm SJ team as we were unable to find a fourth member who could come to Lincoln. Sadly, Emma Chamberlain had had to withdraw prior to the event.

Frances Hall on Bunny rode first around 9.30am. I did not see her round but she said she was eliminated at the last fence (a double) which was very unlucky as she had jumped clear up to that fence. This now meant that Frances and I rode as individuals not as a team. I rode next, Minnie jumped a quick clear round. Frances R went later and just knocked fence 11.

In the afternoon Frances Hall decided not to jump again in the second round (at 75cm). I jumped around 2 pm. Minnie was rather keen but jumped well, just one knockdown at the last fence (first part of the double). I am a bit cross with myself because if I had taken a tug on approach I think I would have gone clear (hindsight!). Frances R went around 2.30pm and did a lovely collected round



– just one unlucky fence down (that last double!).

I finished the day on 4 faults and Frances R on 8 faults – we were both pleased. Later I found there was only 9 double clears out of 80 plus entries so the course did cause a few problems. I came 13th individually. No rosette but I was please Minnie jumped well, and handled the atmosphere. After all the excitement we relaxed and caught up with other members and later had a double G&T (much needed!).

Minnie and Smiles stayed another night in the stables and we all went home on Sunday morning. The whole experience was great fun and all the BVRC volunteers who came up to Lincoln and helped were amazing. Sandra Groves took some lovely pics and Lindsay came up to support on Saturday – driving up and back on the day (mega journey!).

I would recommend other members to join the teams – you will enjoy it. I hope to go again (maybe next year!).

Kay and Minnie

Other Results:

Style Team (Helen, Susie, Frances R, Frances H) = 9th

Alison & Ghillie produced the only BVRC clear in the 95cm round of SJ, despite the torrential rain!

HUGE thanks to Lynn Mead, Ella Birch and Nicola Scivier for coming up to help and support us all.

Susie Pool



Frances & Bunny



Grace & Ocus Pocus



Susie & Dubai; Riding Test, Style Jumping (Individual 9th)



Helen & Boy; Style Jumping



Frances & Smiles; 75cm SJ



Susie & Dubai; 95 cm SJ



Helen & Boy; 95cm SJ



Briony & Jaf; 95cm SJ



It rained!!

Alison & Ghillie; 95cm SJ

Blenheim Palace RC Eventer Challenge – Thursday 19th September

Four members had their debut in the RC Eventer Challenge 90. Susie Pool on Dubai. Alison Coleman on Graigue Hero. Louise Parr on Zary and Briony Tarlton on Orion's Jaffa. Last year the 100 team came 3rd but this team set their own goals somewhat lower, based on problems they have faced this year:

- to jump all the right fences in the right order,
- to not fall off,
- to not have any stops,
- to leave as many show jump poles in place as possible.

They all certainly achieved that and more, as ALL 4 jumped double clear, with only a total of 7.6 time faults from the best 3. Louise did a brilliant job finishing inside the time. The team finished about 14th of 45 teams and all riders are keen to try the 100 next year.

It was also great to see so many BVRC supporters and many thanks again to our personal photographer, Sandra Groves. Far too many to include, all her lovely photos can be viewed here: <https://sandragroves.zenfolio.com/p955671126>



Susie Pool-Dubai, Alison Coleman-Graigie Hero, Louise Parr-Zary, Briony Tarlton-Orion's Jaffa





So that brings to a close the end of a very busy, exciting, fun competition year, where we have certainly achieved the aims of the BRC movement, depicted on the planks below, with the added bonus of bringing home a good selection of rosettes and prizes.



As I finish writing this, we have already completed 3 Qualifiers for 2020! I look forward to a short break until the next one; Winter Novice & Intermediate Show Jumping on Sunday 23rd February.

Susie Pool