

BVRC Team News

End of 2023

This newsletter rounds off BVRC team and individual activities for 2023 with three Qualifiers for 2024 Championships already under our belts. With BRC plans to hold BOTH Winter Championships (Novice and Intermediate) at Arena UK, Grantham, Lincs and the cost of fuel and stabling, fewer and fewer people want to put themselves forward for Area Qualifiers, across ALL Area 17 Clubs. As a result, plans are underway to hold an **Area 17 Championships at Moreton EC over the weekend of 20th-21st July 2024**. This will consist of Dressage and Show Jumping and incorporate Qualifiers for those wanting a chance to go to Lincoln. Get the dates in your diary and keep the weekend free!!

BRC National Championships - Show Jumping, Lincoln Showground – Saturday 2nd September

With so few participants in the Area 17 Qualifiers and no teams qualifying for the 90 or 100cm show jumping, BRC were keen for the Area to put forward an Area team. There weren't enough available to make a 100 team, so although invited, Ian Spalding didn't go. Dubai and I were invited and were joined by 2 members from East Dorset RC and one from Vectis RC. The format followed the now usual one for Championships where you jump one round in one arena and the 2nd round about 30 minutes later in a different arena; in this case the Main Show arena, which I hadn't ridden in previously. Although it is good to get both rounds in fairly quick succession without lots of hanging around and warming up twice, you do have to walk both courses in advance, the 2nd of which has a Phase B against the clock. As it happens, I was the only team member to jump clear in the first



round and Phase B of the 2nd and go through to the jump off for an individual place. It also helped the team achieve 8th place finishing on 12 faults. We were actually equal on faults with 2 other teams but their riders went quicker than us in the 2nd round Phase A though it wasn't "against the clock". A creditable result nevertheless.



The last time I jumped at the Championships, Dubai hated the hard ground and we were eliminated in the 2nd round. Despite all the rain we had in August, the usual 90 Arena was still quite firm. I was hoping that Dubai would find the Main Arena less jarring and jump happily.

Again she felt forward and willing on my canter round and my aim was to keep her in front of my leg, look up and keep out of her way, with a longer rein. Fences 1-8 were Phase A and counted for the team score and if double clear by then, riders went on the jump 9-14 against the clock for an individual place. I'm so, so proud of Dubai for really trying and despite nearly hitting the deck after

fence 9, she went on to jump the next 2 clear - brave horse. We ended up a bit close to fence 12 and rolled a pole but I was thrilled with our achievement. We'd done it and posted the only double clear for the team. I was also awarded 8th individually. The slight downer, after I got home, was that when I looked at my scores, I had been marked as triple clear, despite them announcing my 4 faults in the jump-off, which is why I didn't bother checking, in my excitement at being placed! I should have been 12th but was too late to make any changes. Having felt very deflated and a fraud, after a good chat to a friend, and a wonderful hack on William the next day, I was able to focus on the positives and treasure the feeling I had had at the end of our round. I am also proud to say that I am not embarrassed by any of my photos or the videos of my 2 rounds – previously unheard of when jumping this horse.

Susie Pool

Dressage to Music, Intro and Winter Novice Dressage Qualifiers, Crofton Manor EC
Sunday 21st October

Huge thanks and congratulations go to Solent RC for laying on 3 Championship Qualifiers in one day! Lead by the amazing Heather Lewis, who also managed to compete in the D2M, everything went smoothly, despite the awful weather and wet outdoor arenas. One week later and they would have had to cancel as the outdoor arenas were actually under water! As it was, Bamba was NOT impressed with the bog outdoors!



Susie Pool

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Dressage to Music -	Novice with points		
Susan Wheatley	Bamba's First	67.5%	6 th
Francesca Driscoll	Riley	65.56%	8 th
Winter Novice Champs	Intro C		
Frances Hall	Mallards Wood Corunna	67.61	1 st
	Prelim 12		
Susie Pool	Ravensberg Regal William	64.07	6 th

Winter Novice Champs	Team – 6th			
Frances Hall	Bellindene Magnum	Prelim 7	63.18	7 th
Francesca Driscoll	Riley	Prelim 12	67.04	3 rd
Susie Pool	Dubai	Novice 24	65.65	10 th
Susan Wheatley	Bamba's First	Novice 27	57.68	10 th



Dusting off our dancing shoes for the first time since August 2022, Riley and I made our BVRC Debut. The original plan had been to just do the Music class, which was a delight to strut away to our Blues Brothers theme. Riley was equally delighted, deciding that medium canter translates to a buck and yee-ha down the long side. Don't you just love ponies.

We were then asked to do the Straight Prelim test after another member had to unfortunately withdraw (wishing pony a full recovery!). Despite a very wet warm up and arena, we splashed our way around and made it through the test, relatively dry...

Being a new member to the Riding Club, I hadn't met any of the other riders and didn't know who I was looking out for. Susie gave a detailed description of who to look out for on arrival and



I was welcomed by Susan and Ian just before I entered my first test. Having no idea that the team were watching my test, it was lovely to be greeted by the other team members and Riding Club members when we finished our test.

I can't thank the team enough for welcoming Riley and I into the team, and huge well done to everyone and their noble steeds! I'm looking forward to future events and catching up with you all again.



Frankie Driscoll

Another big thank you to Sandra Groves for her continuing support at many Qualifiers and the wonderful photos/videos she takes.