

**BD SENIOR HOME INTERNATIONAL, kindly hosted by
SCOTLAND 17-18th OCT 2009
NORTHERN REPORT**



We left in convoy with Lara Dyson (Northern region members rep) after a manic rush to get everything on board and left a very dull and overcast morning behind, the weather got steadily worse until we hit thick fog coming over the Pennines. It wasn't so much thick fog as thick clouds! As we got into Scotland the weather brightened up and we had a clear run to Rowallan, through some amazing scenery, the densely wooded areas striking as we wound our way to Meiklemossie in Ayrshire.

When we arrived we were greeted by our friendly stable manager Angela, she was a busy lady as she was also competing- representing Scotland. Also there to greet us were our very congenial hosts, Lord and Lady Rowallan, who were absolutely amazing and worked through the whole of the weekend, with jobs ranging from bar duties, commentating, running repairs etc.

The trot up was on Friday afternoon and it went without a hitch, the horses looked immaculate and were very well presented. Saturday brought the first of the competitions, the warm up tests, with all of our teams doing fairly well and then the first of the team tests. I think it's fair to say that there were a range of marks, with Lara, Sue and Anne (Staines) getting the best most consistent marks of the day.

The weather on Friday and Saturday was glorious and in fact we managed to have an outdoor drinks and nibbles party on the Saturday evening. There was a bit of a treat (not sure for who) later on Saturday evening as the Spice Girls were in town, the Northern Dressage Committee's version of them at any rate! Sadly (though some, including myself were joyous) we couldn't treat Rowallan to a melody as the Karaoke bloke hadn't got all the cables he needed – phew!! However, Chrissie, not to be thwarted, is insistent that we will be doing a 'gig' at the next opportune event, so hard luck ladies, you're not off the hook yet!



Left to right: Chrissie Havis (Ginger), Lara Dyson (Sporty), Kate Jackson (Baby), Vikki Hayton (Posh) and Sarah Huntridge (Scary)

Sunday went without a hitch for most of us and we had some really good results, Lara was 2nd in her section with 66.22% in the Medium 75 and 66.18% in the Medium 73 and 2nd overall, Sue Staines was 7th overall, despite having her test on Sunday interrupted by an elf that bobbed up from the glen directly in front of Sue as she and her mare were coming across the diagonal in extended trot!! Anne Staines was also 7th overall in the Medium, Pedro and I led our section until the final two with 65.13% and were equal 2nd, but then dropped to 3rd on collectives and came 11th overall as we'd had bad test the day before. Caroline Davies got 65.42% in Saturday's preliminary test and 67.27 on the Sunday coming 9th overall. Aimee Straughan was in hot pursuit achieving 66.82% just behind Caroline, with Kate Jackson closely behind on 64.55. Jo Wainwright got a 61.38 and was 8th in the Elementary 48.

Congratulations to all our team and your helpers, you were a credit to the Northern Area. Many thanks to David Collins, I don't think any of us quite knew what you did, but it obviously worked miracles, and I never forgot one of my tests which was a 'personal best' and can't possibly be coincidental! Overall placings for the teams was one of our best yet and we were just outside the rosettes this year, a huge leap from last year, so our hectic training schedule is clearly paying off, keep up the hard work, we need to start working towards next year, when it will hopefully be a bit more local and the Committee will have had chance to practise our Spice Girls routine.

If anyone would like to be considered for next years' Home International, please don't hesitate to contact us, we don't know what talent we have in the Northern region unless you put yourselves forward. Please email Chrissie on chrissiehavis@britishdressage.co.uk Photos are on the Northern web page with a link to our facebook. To join the Northern region facebook group go to www.facebook.com become a member (free) then search for Northern region British Dressage.

The riders representing the Northern region and England were:

Sue Staines at Advanced Medium level on BE Hopeful

Mary Trease at AM on Renaissance III

Vikki Hayton at AM on Markham Sultan

Jeanne Anderson at AM on Tom Tiger

Ann Staines at Medium level on Herr Hickory

Lara Dyson at M on Cyden Perplex

Jo Brooke at M on Imperial Crusader

Alastair Parkin at Elementary level on Mysteeq

Sandra Hall at E on Divine Expression

Jo Wainwright at E on Chevet Express

Hannah Cutler at Novice level on Odessa III

Marie King at N on Deluglio

Aimee Straughan at Prelim level on Drummer Boy

Kate Jackson at P on Kaprico Vinny

Caroline Davies at P on Hassan De Faust

Gillian Bassett at P on Djerko Van De Pluimert

We hope everyone had a great time!

Vikki Hayton

Chef d'Equipe