

FESTIVAL OF THE HORSE CHAMPIONSHIPS CHALLENGE & COMBINED TRAINING

1st and 2nd June 2013

The Rutland Riding Club Challenge team of Lucy Howard, Neil Grant, Gail Yeandle and Cressida Heath made the journey to Aston le Walls on Saturday 1st June with high hopes and fine weather. Everyone acquitted themselves very well and, as usual it was a long wait for all the results to be confirmed and prizes to be handed out.

In the end the team came a gallant 10th, but it so very nearly could have been much better. Poor Lucy had an uncharacteristic glance off at the double of corners and she was so disappointed with herself that she decided not to wait for the final results. Neil also had an unfortunate step back which accrued 20 penalties. Both Gail and Cressida had a much better score, with Gail finishing 17th individually out of over 70 competitors. I think that everyone enjoyed the day out anyway.

As we were sending a team to the Championships we had to send a “helper” and Sue Beech very kindly agreed to do this. Her task ended up not being too arduous as she manned a crossing point on the course for a couple of hours. This meant she had time to help and support our team members which was great.

Both Cressida and I competed in the Showing Classes which were being run concurrently with the Challenge on Saturday, and Cressida’s mare was a very credible 2nd in the Racehorse to Riding Horse Class. My horse Tadger II also had a good day coming 3rd in the Novice Ridden Hunter and again 2nd in the Open Ridden Hunter. This meant that we came home with rather splendid “goodie bags” full of NAF stuff (they were the sponsors!).

Gail and Suzie made the journey again on Sunday to compete in the combined training and did have to wait to the very end as they were placed 1st in their Arena and came 3rd individually, which was marvellous. Rosemary David went down to Aston Le Walls to support Gail on Sunday so must have brought her some good luck!

Fiona Edmunds
Team Manager