

## Team Report 2008

The 2008 team competition year got off to a great start in October with the **Hunter Trials** Open team winning and Alison Bogue as an individual winning on her horse Good Day, in addition to this Lyn Barr was 4<sup>th</sup> and Vanessa Starling 5<sup>th</sup>. Then Susan Terris-Weir stormed home and won the individual novice section on Howick So so resulting in the open team and winning individuals all qualifying for the Hunter Festival Championships at Aston le Walls in May 2008.

In November the **Novice indoor sj team** then followed suit being placed 2<sup>nd</sup> and also qualifying for those respective Championships at Hartpury College in April 2008.

The **indoor dressage** team competition then took place in March, this was a new competition where 2 riders in the team rode a prelim test and 2 ride a novice test. It was a horrible windy and wet day with us being 2 riders down however everyone braved the weather with Sarah Brown and Just Jakes 2<sup>nd</sup> and Kirsten McPhillips and Pure Genius IV 5<sup>th</sup> in their warm up classes.

**Fundraising** was next on the agenda for the teams who had qualified for the Championships to assist with the costs of travelling south. Everyone got their heads together and hosted a number of events and activities, quiz sheets, fun nights, fun livery competitions, a sponsored cycle and of course the Spring Ball. This was a great evening with over 160 attendees and we made over £1,000 for the teams from the raffle, auction and ticket price which was a great achievement.

In April Lisa Mullen and Desmond, Kathryn Muir and Sandra Lamb's horse Driftwood, Emily Brady and Minnie Mou & Arran Waddell and Surrealist Lyne all headed south under the watchful eye of Sandra Lamb on 3rd April to compete at **Hartpury** College on Saturday 5th April. Although there were no prizes they had a great time and came home all the wiser!

Then on Friday 30th May, Susan Terris Weir (nov indiv), Caroline Fox, Anne-marie van Heelsum & Kirsten McPhillips (Open team) headed to the Championships at **Aston Le Walls**. Unfortunately 2 of the original open team members (Vanessa Starling & Alison Bogue) were unable to travel south with Kirsten & Anne-marie stepping in to take their place. Then a few weeks before the trip there was a further set back when Lyn Barr (another original team member) had to pull out due to her horse being injured.

Susan (a.k.a. Terri) and Howick so so were first to go and I mean first literally being on the course at 9.15am. She went clear & came in slightly under the time gaining 1.6 time penalties, this was good enough to give her 9th place as the first 8 were all very close as you can imagine from her score. Terri then also took part in the Novice hunter class part of the Festival of the Hunter at 1pm. This involved a quick bath of So so (a dapple grey) and a plaiting class with thread for Terri from Caz & Anne-marie and they came 10<sup>th</sup>. This was a great achievement, being placed in both classes for a relatively new combination so well done to them.

In the Open section path finders Anne-marie & Lennard who normally compete at BE Novice level were clear but had a fast round coming in under the time gaining 6.4 time penalties. Kirsten then set off on A bit on the Side after a hold up on the course which tested their nerves, they also went clear but were not fast enough gaining 8 time penalties. Caz and Montana V (Bill) were next, they were the least experienced of the 3 riders but did extremely well having a stop at the second part of the treble but they managed the trakener first time, their bogey fence for their last few runs before that so well done to them! They were unplaced but all got round and with a team of 3 riders that is quite an achievement as many teams were being eliminated.

PDRC then hosted the **Area sj and style** jumping competition at Biggar showfield on Sunday 15th June. Home support was good with us fielding teams in the Novice, Style and

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Intermediate competitions as well as providing the only two competitors in the Open class!

The Novice team got off to bad start being one horse down due to an overnight injury but tried their best with the remaining riders. The course was tough with many fillers and it was quite technical for a novice. Unfortunately Gail Grant and The Artful Dodger were eliminated in the first round but I must add she only started her jumping career a couple of years back so good on her for giving it a go. Lyn Miller and her young horse Hit the road Jack did well going clear in the first round and rolling a few poles in the second and Helen MacNeil and her horse Rocksand also had a few mishaps. However all did very well. Laura Kelly and Holly also represented the club on the day with Holly behaving extremely well at her first outing and the combination winning Best Turned out in the class.

In the Style jumping Sandra Lamb and Winnietoe led the way and were placed 5th individual, Liz Fletcher riding Annie and Melanie Grant riding Topaz followed with Arran Waddell and Surrealist Lyne completing the team and coming 6th individual resulting in the team being 2nd overall.

Sandra Lamb got the Intermediate team off to a good start with Liz Fletcher, Melanie Grant and Arran Waddell all following suit, with a total of 4 faults form the first round. In the second round the course was raised and questions asked resulting in the team finishing on a total of 12 which gained them 3rd place.

The only two competitors in the Open were Kirsten McPhillips and A Bit on the Side and Annemarie van Heelsum on Lennard, it was slightly disappointing but with both ladies being competitive they carried on regardless. The first round resulted in 4 faults for them both so the second round was the decider. Anne-marie went first and had an unfortunate 3 poles down as Lennard decided he was boss and knew what he was doing. Kirsten kept her nerve and went clear winning overall and qualifying for the British Riding Club Championships at Lincoln in September, she did however opt not to attend this year having already made one journey south this year.

The **Area Horse Trials** was held on 6th July 2008 at Eglinton, Ayrshire where we put forward a novice team and 2 individuals, an intermediate team and 1 open individual. The day got off to a bad start with a text message from Helen MacNeil to say her car would not start and she was also bringing Caroline Fox. A quick phone around & a call to the AA luckily meant that all competitors got there but Helen was minus her car and was kindly chauffeured by Barry Thorp although arriving slightly late for her dressage.

The novice team (Dawn Philips, Laurie McGowan, Helen MacNeil & Kirsten McPhillips) & individuals Lyn Miller & Helen Newlands all had good dressage scores with Kirsten and Helen N going on to go clear show jumping. The cross country had provided a fair number of problems for many competitors throughout the day with fence 4a & 4b (a hanging log at the top of a quarry then down to a stream) being the bogey! Dawn was first to go and unfortunately fell off, but her horse Conor was fine with the only injury being that Dawn had a rather sore bottom! Laurie and The Registrar having not been cross country in a year did very well, standing in at last minute due to an injury and had two stops but completed the course. Helen M & Kirsten both had great rounds coming back clear so we managed to get 3 riders round therefore the team had completed as only 3 scores count. In the individual section Lyn Miller unfortunately lost her way on the show jumping and was eliminated and Helen N also fell victim to fence 4 and was eliminated on the xc.

In the Intermediate section Wendy McTeir, Susan Terris Weir (Terri), Caroline Fox & Barry Thorp had a tough day ahead of them with their xc being challenging for 4 riders never to have

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done an equivalent BE Pre novice course. However all did extremely well, giving it their all; Wendy and Kind of Confusion was the only clear show jumping but was unfortunately eliminated on the xc, Caroline & Terri were clear xc but Barry was also eliminated when his navigation skills failed at the water complex.

Anne-marie and her mount Lennard were our only competitor in the open gaining the best dressage (30.0) in her class and going clear sj but having some uncharacteristic stops xc resulting in her coming 3rd overall.

Additionally we gained placings when the Novice team came 2nd being one of only 3 teams to finish out of 9 that started with Kirsten & Pure Genius being placed 2nd individually and gaining best dressage score (26.8) in this section. Barry Thorp & Strawberry Starburst also gained best dressage in the Intermediate on a score of 24.4 which is a great score with Caroline Fox & Montana 3rd individual and Susan Terris Weir & Howick So so 5th individual in their sections.

We unfortunately had no individuals or teams entered in the **novice dressage** this year which is a first with no interest from the members. It did however clash with many other events this year which I think impacted on this.

We did however field one team for the **Area open dressage team** consisting of Selina Errington, Geraldine Gould, Helen MacNeil & Laurie McGowan on Sunday 13th July. Everyone did extremely well with us gaining some individual rosettes. Helen MacNeil and Rocksand 2nd in her warm up and 4th= in her team test, Geraldine Gould and La Coste 5th and Selina Errington and Roxie 4th.

As always I must say well done to all of you who took part in all the events, we have done very well in terms of results, we have all met new members and encouraged the more familiar faces to come back and have another go. Good luck everyone in 2009!

**Kirsten McPhillips,**  
**Team Co-ordinator**