

Saturday 3rd December

Fancy Dress Dressage and Dressage to Music Show at Kings EC

Saturday started very early with Quincy being plaited and primped to within an inch of his life and Mo being buffed and polished to the same degree!

Nat Portman and Mo as dawn breaks over Kings EC car park



(Photo by Penny Hayward)

As the sun began to rise the Intro Tests began and several small furry ponies were led through their tests by puffing mothers and children with grins as big as their heads and even when Jack Sneyd's halo slipped his costume malfunction didn't seem to dampen the enthusiasm. Nat and Mo did a very creditable test - coming 6th - and won the fancy dress prize which to Nat's delight was chocolate!

We then doubled our efforts for the pairs competition - Kate and Quincy joining Nat and Mo with antlers, noses and more jingle bells than all of Santa's reindeer put together - the ponies jingled so much neither rider heard the bell to start their test! They rode their test really well and came 4th. They won more chocolate for the fancy dress.

Nat & Mo and Kate & Quincy winning the fancy dress!



(Photos by Phil J Photography)

Then there was a bit of a lull - the P18 test was not nearly so highly decorated! Jill and Quincy went well and came 4th with Jill getting an 8 for her halt! Fantastic and just the warm-up needed for the afternoon's efforts! BDRC was well represented in this class with Lorraine and Dibble winning, and Wendy and Ollie coming 6th - not a bad haul!

An 8 in anyone's book!



(Photos by Phil J Photography)



While the Dengie Qualifiers were on it was all change! We went home to collect Jake and Midge and came back for the Individual and Pairs to music

Jake & I had huge amounts of fun doing our Tiger Feet routine - complete with tiger skin saddle cloth and the obligatory tiger feet! for Jake and a pith helmet and massive moustache for me! We managed 4th place in spite of a rather stuffy trot at the start! with Margaret coming 2nd.

I really love your tiger feet!



(Photos by Phil J Photography)

As I finished my individual test I had to rush off to do a quick change and get ready for the pairs section which was coming up. In the meantime Lyn & Midge did an individual Prelim test - Lyn remembered her whole test and Midge behaved herself beautifully and although they weren't in the ribbons it was none the less a really good try and the very helpful judge's comments will give her something to work on for the Summer Extravaganza in 2012!

Then what for me was the high spot - the Pairs section!



(Photos by Phil J Photography)

The Nutcracker music made it seem very Christmassy and we'd all had a lot of fun preparing costumes, music and floor plans. The ponies went really well and we were delighted to come 2nd! We didn't get any chocolate though - just as well we'd helped ourselves to Nat and Kate's stash from earlier in the day!

All in all it was a tremendous day and a massive thank you has to go to Gerry and her team who made it a day to remember and Des who was opening and closing the arena doors quite literally from dawn 'til dark. Better get the Summer days sorted - I'd hate to miss the next one!

Cheers

Penny