

The Pony Club Endurance Championships 2022

The Lions Tail, Melton Mowbray.

Sunday 25th September saw the Pony Club Endurance Championships being fought over with determination at the Lions Tail, nr. Melton Mowbray. Very many thanks to Endurance GB and especially Kathy Carr of the Leicestershire and Rutland group for inviting us to this prestigious event where we were made really welcome. Also, thanks to all those who helped us with prizes, especially R&R Country Store.

Members from twelve branches, that came from as far away as Aberystwyth and the New Forest, arrived to participate in the Open over 56km, the Intermediate (40km), the Novice (32km) and the Grassroots Championships over what proved to be a demanding but very enjoyable course nearly all on grass.

The highlight of the day was the thorough preparation and the fitness achieved by our members with all bar one getting an EGB Grade 1 or 2. So whether they were placed or not, I must congratulate all who participated on their great achievement.

Kacey Brown from the North Norfolk produced a steady but determined ride to win the Open class, even more impressive as she rode most of the route by herself. The Intermediate class confirmed the strength of the Yorkshire (Area 3) branches with Nancy Manners (Bedale & West of Yore), Kathryn Featherstone (York & Ainsty South) and Rachel Mitchell (also Bedale & West of Yore) taking 1st, 2nd and 5th place. Huge congratulations as two of them are completely new to Endurance this year and the fact that Nancy represented her branch in the Eventing and Show Jumping championships on her 14.2 pony is just proof that you don't always require an Arab to do Endurance. The best points of the day were achieved by Evie Brampton of The New Forest, gaining her victory in the Novice class, followed very closely by Caoimhe Chambers from the Tiveyside. It was great to see some competitors in the Grassroots class and, although only 23km, it was an excellent preparation for those wishing to go further in the future. The winner of this was Niamh Richardson from the Whaddon Chase followed by Amber Boiles of the North Warwickshire.

The team event was a very close-run affair with the Yorkshire team just beating the team from the South and East by one point.

These outstanding results couldn't have been achieved without the valuable support of the friends and relatives of the competitors who gave succour and refreshments to both horse and rider at the crew points and vet gates. The success of the ride relies a lot on their dedication and support. We had lots of other helpers on the day, but special thanks must go to Chris Wray whose scoring was outstanding, to Rosemary Attfield and Clare Valori who scored during the day and Zoe Pulling from Pony Club headquarters who pulled the whole day together.

Already looking forward to next year,
Robert



(Left) Heath Ashley on his horse Lady Bug, taking part in the Novice Class



(Right) Kathryn Featherstone on her horse Enya in the Intermediate Class

Team First for Yorkshire with Vice Chair Clare Valori!

