



ENDURANCE GB

NORTHUMBERLAND & TYNESIDE GROUP

PRESS RELEASE

Hexhamshire Trophy Ride Sunday 2nd August 2009

On Sunday 2nd August this ride was once again had its venue at Cooks House Farm, courtesy of Ian and Jennifer Dodds, and the facilities were perfect.

Although just 4 miles from Hexham town centre, it is surrounded by designated areas of outstanding natural beauty, plenty of natural water supplies, open moors, and the beautiful heather laden Hexham Common, over which the majority of the ride is held. It is a refuge to grouse and partridge to name but a few of the wildlife which can be seen.

On the day there were a variety of classes, 85km Hexhamshire Trophy Endurance Ride, sponsored by Mike and Sally Bell of Border Trails Endurance, Graded Competitive rides of 63km, with a best condition prize sponsored by Classic Upholstery & Foam of Carlisle, 51km, 42km, 32km distance and a 21km Pleasure Ride open for members as well as non-members. Further sponsors of the ride were Dodson & Horrell, Bedmax, KhazanEquestrian and The Worshipful Company of Saddlers.

The ride was over subscribed, but so not to disappoint riders, the organisers, Janet Lennard and Viv Knight found extra bibs and took late entries so that more could enjoy the day.

The Hexhamshire Trophy, which is basically an 85km (50 mile) race (ER) taking approximately 5½ hours, thrilled not only riders and owners, but spectators as well. All were treated to a nail biting racing finish between the three leading horses.

The first to cross the line, by a head, was Rachael Atkinson from Burnley, Lancashire riding Oakthwaite Elsadyr. Rachael is a Great Britain squad member with another of her horses. The average speed was a dizzy 15.36km/hr which is incredible when you consider the amount of rough ground to be covered. In second place was three times Northern Point to Point champion jockey Andrew Richardson from Hexham, riding Viv Knight's horse Sun Diva GFA. This was their first ever completed ER. The horse and rider only became eligible to enter ER's in May of this year following the fast route to progressing through the qualifying distances.

The third horse over the finish line was Taiya, ridden by Pamela Sougall from East Lothian in Scotland. Sadly Taiya was judged to be slightly lame at the final vetting and eliminated.

The next rider to finish, and therefore taking third place, was Sarah Ollis from St. Bees in Cumbria, riding Cwrtycadno Zeus at an average speed of 14.11km/hr. Sarah and Zeus had successfully completed a major ER at Lindum just a week before also taking third place there.

Felicity Edmeston from Derbyshire riding Floriferouz was cheered over the finishing line. Unfortunately, Floriferouz lost a shoe early in the ride and had to wait for the farrier to go out on route to replace the shoe before continuing which put her at least 30 mins. behind the leaders. However she appeared to enjoy the day and was quoted as saying "It was lovely to do a really tough endurance ride again, my muscles ache although Fonz seems fine. I felt it was a real achievement to get round, but the going was perfect, the weather was (I am informed) "canny" and the marking was superb. Can't begin to think how long it must have taken to put all those flags out. Thanks to the organisers for putting on a great event - it all seemed to run like clockwork."

In Class 2, 63km competitive ride, all horses completed successfully. The vets, after deep discussions decided that Kathleen McGhee and Foxgyls Folly from Ambleside, Cumbria should be awarded best condition and she went home with broad smiles after being presented with an embroidered cooler rug from sponsors Viv & Graham Knight of Classic Upholstery & Foam from Denton Holme, Carlisle.

Full results of all other classes are available on [EGB National](#) website.

All the group's rides are organised by experienced personnel, with checkpoint marshals and well marked courses, with support from Raynet communications and Emergency Paramedics Services, so we hope that you will join us at other rides this year as well as the Hexhamshire Trophy Ride in 2010 for a taste of true Endurance riding.

Information about other forthcoming events, including the Breamish Valley Ride and Kielder Pleasure Ride are on our website:
www.egbnorthumberlandandtyneside.co.uk.