

## FESTIVAL OF THE HUNTER CHALLENGE

On 7<sup>th</sup> March 2010 four members of Rutland Riding Club, together with the stalwart helpers, trekked up to Epworth Equestrian Centre to compete in the Area 16 Festival of the Hunter Challenge. For those of you who do not know what this is, the challenge involves a competition along the lines of an Eventer Trial. Each competitor has to complete a round of show jumps and then continue on around a cross country course which at Epworth, included a ditch, a water hazard and the odd “skinny”, and some nice plain fences, all to optimum times.

The Senior Novice Team consisted of:

Sue Holroyd	Sonara Sunrise
Alison Hulbert	Yum No Shakara
Gail Yeandle	Ragtime Suzie
Bella Craven	Dun in a Million

Alison's horse Pollyanna was lame and Gail very kindly offered her horse Yum No Shakara (known to his friends as Sam) so as to not let the side down. The team were placed 6<sup>th</sup> and Bella was placed 3<sup>rd</sup> individually.

Gail and Alison also went around the course again in the pairs class and came a valiant 2<sup>nd</sup>. So it was rosettes for all.

Despite the long journey the day was bright and sunny, and the start was delayed by about 30 minutes due to heavy frost. The course rode well and I think everyone enjoyed their first outing for a while!

Our thanks also go to the helpers who were volunteered (!) to fence judge. These were Rosemary David, Deirdre Haynes and Sue Beech. They made no comment on the packed lunch provided so perhaps it was not all bad!

Well done.

Fiona Edmunds