

## FESTIVAL OF THE HUNTER CHALLENGE 2009

There was more than one challenge to contend with taking a team from Rutland Riding Club to compete in the Area Qualifier. The first was the location of the qualifier at Epworth near Doncaster in the most northern part of Area 16. The second was gathering together all potential participants and shuffling them into some order! The third was to explain the new format that a round of show jumps before proceeding on the cross country was going to work (rather on the lines of the Eventer Challenges). Lastly was the challenge to be able to provide the required number of helpers needed at these area qualifiers to enable them to run smoothly.

Well, Rutland managed to rise extremely well to all the challenges with the team of:

**Gail Yeandle**  
**Sue Holroyd**  
**Neil Grant**  
**Alison Hulbert**

**Yume No Shakara**  
**Sonara Sunrise**  
**Ragtime Aristocrat**  
**Pollyanna**

Coming 2<sup>nd</sup>! With Gail being placed 3<sup>rd</sup> individually and Sue 6<sup>th</sup> individually.

The duo of **Bella Craven** and **Rosy Bliss** on **Millie and Billy** respectively also rose to the challenge in the pairs class, once Bella could stop chattering at the rate of knots (!) by galloping home into 4<sup>th</sup> place.

Sadly the second team lost two members and therefore **Ros Rowley on Rich Sun and Karen Royles on Lake Street Curious** had to be content with running as individuals. Both had successful rounds and Karen completed a clear with a few time penalties, and Ros is still gaining confidence on her new horse, attributing her minor blips to slight inexperience and lack of positiveness in her riding skills, although could be one to follow!

Lastly the challenge of finding helpers was greatly eased when **Rosemary** and **Deirdre** volunteered themselves as Fence Judges for the day, willing to make an early start and late homecoming to fly the banner for Rutland.

All these challenges were make so much easier when the venue provided a good course, the weather was extremely kind for the time of year, and congratulations to the riders for bringing home the ribbons! Past experience has warned us not to hope too much that we may have qualified for the Hunter Championships at Aston le Walls, but fingers are crossed that Gail may have qualified by being the highest placed rider not in the winning team! We await with baited breath to hear from BRC Head Office!

Well done to all!

Fiona Edmunds



Bella Craven on Millie



Rosie Bliss on Billy