

BRIGHTON NATIONAL



Although I have been grooming for Gail and Nick Palmer since 2002, this was my first visit to Brighton. Gail was competing in the single horse class with Chester, who is doing his first full season at National Level. As company for Chester on the long journey we took Ginger Nuts, a miniature Shetland. He proved to be hugely popular with visitors, having had his picture taken dozens of times during the weekend – much to Chester’s annoyance!

Our Dressage test wasn’t until Friday afternoon, which gave Gail plenty of time to collect a new hat and apron, which I am sure helped towards our good marks. To the amusement of all watching a loose dog relieved itself in the arena as Gail was in the middle of a one handed circle! Despite this we were laying 5th after this stage.

As Nick was suffering from a painful hip, I had to groom on the Marathon. There were 7 obstacles all brightly decorated, offering a variety of routes to suit all classes. It went really well and we moved up to 3rd place.

The Cone course was well presented, requiring full concentration as it consisted of a double box and a bridge. On a whole both drove well and we finished 5th overall.

Other club members competing were Christina Woollacott and Karen Everett in the single horse class, and Margi Hawkins in the horse pair class.

So all in all it was a very satisfying and successful weekend, despite the fact that there was no time for a dip in the sea!

Rachel Moast.