

GWHC JUNIORS AT KEYSOE

The Indoor season kicked off to a great start and things seemed to be on the up as the indoor championship was on the horizon. When the last indoor competition came, Lightening was fit and going really well, so we were ready.

The six and half hour journey seemed to go very quickly with Margi driving! Lightening and his travelling companion Nuggett, who was also competing at the championship, were fine in Margi's lorry. The Saturday morning came quickly as I was the first on in my class (senior junior) at 8.30am! My test went ok, with a score of 34.2. The cones were straight after my test. Lightning's boots were put on quickly, a couple of cones to practice and then we were in. The course was well built with a bridge going both ways, but as Lightning is so good this was no problem. It was the best round I have done all season with no balls down but I was 7 time penalties too fast! Clare Campbell and Nuggett also did really well with 1 cone down and only 3 time penalties!! This meant that Clare was lying in 3rd place in the young juniors, and I was in 2nd in the senior juniors, with Mark Bell in the lead by 5 points.

Our 1st and 2nd obstacles were on Saturday evening at 7pm with the young junior, novice horses and ponies. My class was on first. When I was waiting in the warm up arena I could hear that the fastest times kept on being beaten and then it was my turn. Obstacle 1 went really well, we achieved one of the fastest times of the day, (due to Margi's expert grooming, of course!) Disaster in obstacle 2, As I made a tight turn around white C gate, I took part of the obstacle with me. Then I completely missed the next gate and had to do an extra circle, this meant I was disappointingly down in 4th. Both Clare and I were given lots of encouragement from many people in the audience and it was great to hear some people from the GWHC.

Sunday morning was very early as the clocks had gone forward an hour, so Clare and I had to walk obstacles at 6.30am old time!

Both obstacles were good, no mishaps this time, having learnt my lesson the night before!! However we managed to climb a place into 3rd! Also Clare and Nuggett got the fastest time in her class in obstacle 3, which is brilliant for a pony at the tender age of 23. They finished on an excellent score in 2nd place in the young junior class.

Over all the whole weekend was fantastic, the weather was great and the ponies were brilliant.

Many thanks to Margi Hawkins! And all the GWHC support!

Rosanna Walter-Symons.

