

# KILLERTON ONE-DAY EVENT

I would like to thank Sue Joll and her helpers for a lovely day out at Killerton House near Exeter. Having run this event myself in the past 2001-03, I know just what hard work everyone needs to put in to make it run smoothly. The weather could not have been better, not too hot for the ponies and pleasant for the whips, grooms and helpers.

Killerton is always a good start to the season, nice and relaxed for first timers and old hands alike. I did hear a few grumbles about the cones not being measured for wheel widths etc, but that is the whole idea of Killerton, for it to be a gentle start to the season.

We arrived in good time, having just the cones to walk as we popped up to walk the obstacles the day before. I had a team of helpers, Jenny my groom, her mum, sister and baby, and Anna, who sadly could not bring Jay due to work, but came along to watch.

My ponies were pleased to be out and about again, enjoying seeing the other turnouts jumping thistles and cowpats, and that was all before the start of dressage!

The dressage went well, (I did not get lost!), and the cones drove well (we went clear). We then had a quick break to change in to our marathon gear and we were off. We had a lovely drive through the park, and just having arrows to follow was great, no map reading for my groom Jenny. More time to see the gates coming up at speed, and for her to practice jumping on and off the carriage, (don't ask about her green knees!) It was a lovely to drive the other way around for a change and it worked well. The obstacles drove well, with plenty of routes to choose from, and being towards the end, a lot of the thistles had been flattened, which was good news for my pony that likes to jump them!

All in all we had a great day and are looking forward to next year.

Elsa Herriman, Rhythm and Blues.