

All was looking good for the late dressage show with clear round jumping with the amazing weather, but when Linda, Lizzy, Barbara, Ian and I met at the new club field Friday late afternoon, we got rather a shock. Forty plus horses, most with foals were galloping around everywhere and the owner had apparently been trying to round them up for a few days! We could not chance setting up with the loose horse charging around or with the nights drawing in, wait for hours while the owner came and tried to round them up again. Fantastically the new owners of Northaw Manor came to our rescue and allowed us to use their show field and jumps. Luckily the rings were still up from their showing show and we just managed to get the dressage ring and clear round jumps set out before it was pitch black! Then Barbara and I had a busy evening, of calling all the competitors to let them know that the show had moved.

The weather on the day was fantastic, if rather too hot! It's hard to believe it was the 1st October! Luckily there was plenty of grass cover at Northaw Manor, so there were few worries over the hard ground. Although the heat meant not as many people went round the clear round as we had hoped, there were however, many who made the most of the schooling opportunity and thanked us for this. The dressage competition was also well received and people commented on what a friendly event it was. Our members also did very well, with Ellie Scott coming 1st and 2nd in the Walk and Trot and 1st in Prelim 7 and Lisa Hodges coming 1st in Prelim 14 and 2nd in Novice 30.

Many thanks to the judge Annette and the writer Lizzy who sat in the hot car to mark all day. Also special thanks to my dad Jason for adding up the scores all day, Alice for manning the clear round ring, Ian and my boyfriend Matt for helping with a bit of everything and Nicky for bringing Whisky over, so I could actually ride a test!

Hopefully next year we can run a Combined Training show and fingers crossed, we wont have such an eventful lead up to the show!!

Dawn Grocock

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