

## 1999 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW REPORT

### SHOW REPORT

Once again we were blessed with beautiful sunshine for the long weekend of our National Championship Breed Show settled on the flat fields of Three Counties Showground below the dramatic folds of the Malvern Hills. The success of the 1998 show had obviously been talked about as we were delighted to receive a 25% increase in our entries with 118 horses, which is I think a record. This number included a record number of 6 Lipizzaners for which we have to most sincerely thank Mr & Mrs Burton (Applefield Lipizzaner Stud) who are most generous class sponsors and who worked hard to encourage Lipizzaner owners to take part. Spectator numbers were also considerably up on the previous year judging by the financial income from the 'gate', though the spacious grounds of the venue can swallow up large numbers of people and still not give a 'big crowd' feel.

Much of the planning and organisation of a big show is done well before the event but the success of a show hangs upon the efforts of the organisers and their team of valiant and enthusiastic volunteers over the course of the Friday, Saturday & Sunday. Tina Barnett-Tucker (our 8 month pregnant Show Secretary) and her husband, David, arrived at the showground at 2pm on Friday, and I arrived 15 mins later. The next 4 to 5 hours was spent putting up signs and notices, organising the loudspeaker system, meeting the showground field officer, collecting the 2 - way radios & organising for them to be charged each night, identifying all the stables, collecting chairs, tables, straw bales, unloading the Versatility course obstacles, organising the Secretary's office, unpacking and sorting all the returned Trophies on to tables, etc., etc. Tina and David both deserve a very big thankyou from all of the Association for the work that they put into the show, particularly at a time when many women would feel fully justified to be sitting around with their feet up !!!

Competitors started arriving earlier on the Friday this year, and happily settled their horses into their stables to the strains of the very upbeat music from the religious festival down the road. The following morning a further steady flow of people and horses arrived on the ground, with everyone rapidly settling down to cleaning and polishing their horses and themselves. It was noticeable right from the start of the show what a cheerful and relaxed atmosphere there was and this carried on right through the weekend.

The Spanish Breed specialist judge, Don Salvador Sanchez-Barbudo Martin (one of only 18 approved judges for the PRE), had arrived on Friday evening, having been most kindly collected from the airport by Mr Neil Dougall, who was to judge the Partbred Spanish and the Hispano-Arab classes for us over both days. Our other judges for the weekend were Mrs Pauline Gribben (Shulay Stud) for the Appaloosas, Lusitanos, and Lipizzaners, Mrs Gill Rose returning for a second year to judge our CRC and BD Dressage classes, and Mr Paul Ward who was judging the Versatility competition on the Sunday. Our most grateful thanks to their many hours of concentrated effort in assessing all our horses and riders over the weekend, it was much appreciated, and to demonstrate this fact each judge was presented with a gift from the BAPSH at the end of their assignment.

No show can function without its stewards, ring stewards, dressage writers, commentators, and runners, and Tina and I would like to thank everyone who took even the smallest part in helping to run this 1999 show, and say that the whole event would be impossible to produce without you all. Particular thanks must go to our Chief Steward, Mrs Jill Peace, who calmly copes with any problem and still manages to smile pleasantly no matter what happens; also a very big thankyou to Miquel Alemany and Michael Warburton who took on the enormous task of keeping the Main Ring functioning smoothly for the PRE classes and the Open Ridden classes over two very long days of judging. Further thanks go to Jan Warburton & Charles Beney who organised our Second Ring for the Partbreds & Hispanos with great efficiency, and to Karen Gribben who stewarded for her mother whilst managing to keep an eye on her very young baby, to Ellie and Amanda Tomlinson who worked hard wherever they were needed, to Helen Craig and Mrs Magness who did the dressage writing, to Bryn Jones for stewarding and helping out, to Campbell Young and Jane Rabagliati for lively and interesting commentaries (an essential part of a show), and to everyone else who helped. Lastly sincere and deepfelt thanks must also be given to all the very generous sponsors of individual classes, of beautiful rosettes and lovely trophies. They were individually listed in the Show Programme & we will do so again in the next Magazine. THANKYOU ALL.