



THE EQUISAFETY PONY CLUB ENDURANCE CHAMPIONSHIPS 2023 WELL VALE, LINCOLNSHIRE



A huge well done to all those who competed at The Pony Club Endurance Championships at Well Vale on Sunday 20th. The day proved once again that Endurance is a sport that requires a lot of skill and requires careful planning and timing to achieve top scores. Therefore, a big congratulations must go to the winners of each section: Olivia Lewis in the Grassroots, Leola Hammond in the Novice, Rachel Mitchell in the Intermediate, and Kathryn Featherstone in the Open. Another well done to the winning team (Northern), made up of Kathryn Featherstone, Eve Stanley and Heath Ashley, whose results put them on top with an average score of 34.17.

Area 3 members continued to impress with the additional awards. Both the Senior Horsemanship and the Best Condition (chosen by the panel of vets) were awarded to Rachel Mitchell of Bedale & West of Yore. The vets on the day want to note that it was exceptionally close between Rachel's Normoss Jubilee Queen, and Naomi Peacock's Bolgerstown Bramble (also from the BWY Branch) for this award. Rachel was awarded the Senior Horsemanship prize due to a huge improvement on the previous year. In 2022, Rachel finished on a score of 31.78 coming 5th in the Intermediate, and this year won the class on score of 50, with a finishing heart rate of 42! It was also noted that Rachel's care for her horse both at the vet gate and upon completion was outstanding.

The Junior Horsemanship prize was awarded to Olivia Lewis of Royal Artillery. Olivia's politeness throughout the day shone and was commented on by many officials. Her excellent horsemanship was well reflected by her achievements and resulted in a win for her and Sianwood Top Knotch in the Grassroots section. They finished on a heart rate of 47 and a final score of 40.03.

The best shod, chosen by the farrier, was awarded to Heath Ashley on Lady Glen, and the vets also presented their prize of 'The pony the vets want to take home' to Jack Cross's Absolutely Crackers.

Pony Club Endurance would like to thank **Thay Stephenson** and her excellent team for running such a brilliant event. A huge thanks also goes to **Equisafety**, The Pony Club Endurance sponsor, for their support and prizes on the day. Finally, thank you to **Robert Blane**, the Endurance Chairman, for all his hard work during and before the event, and his ongoing support and passion for Endurance. The day before, Robert himself was competing in the 80km on his own horse!