



Members Free Rally 21st March

Yippee! We had sunshine to celebrate our first Rally & the first day of Spring; plus the Centre for Caring Horsemanship pulled out all the stops & loaned four horses & Penny for the event. What a day, twelve horses attended & enjoyed a mixture of lessons, independent training & trail practice.

As we had the good weather on our side we were able to use the outdoor arena & after warming up, most participants chose to have a lesson with Penny. Riders practiced feel & rhythm, learning the effect of controlled breathing to influence your horse & when to ask & when to tell. There were a lot of young horses present or riders on new mounts, so it was great to concentrate on the basic paces. But don't be misled, it wasn't all easy peasy stuff your gran could do; Penny had us gradually build things up so you started on your own, then became a pair. Two became four & before we knew it we were seven abreast! Someone shouted "pilot error!" as we all lost the wheel on the final turn & the spectators knew it wasn't the horses that were at fault. Guess we need some more practice before we demonstrate at shows.

Jane, Kelly & Devon provided a spectacular lunch as the trail course was set up for the afternoon. Jennifer talked us through the obstacles & gave tips on points the judges were looking for & we had walking demonstrations from both Neil & Penny to keep us on track.

Nikki was first on the course riding Brownie & leading Nimrod, no simple task but they completed the circuit in style. Patti & Dragoons Drummer Boy were next up & managed both in-hand & ridden patterns, which was a great achievement for such a young horse who is new to large gatherings. Lorna followed with her youngster leading the way for Jo, Leslie, Treena, Jackie, Jeanette, Sharon, Julia & Ali. Sadly David was only able to ride in the morning but it was terrific to welcome him as a new member along with Janet & Jackie.

Many thanks to all who came along to watch & help as your support is always appreciated. The committee are now looking for Feedback as we consider the potential for future Rally's so please pass comments to Lorna our events manager. Also please remember it was hard to plan this event as bookings were late. It appears things turned out well & most went home happy with what they had achieved but please note: **members must book in advance for events, giving as much notice as possible, thank you.**

IT WAS GREAT TO SEE EVERYONE, WELL DONE.

