



# Spooners & West Show 25th April 2010

A very happy day emerged after thick fog blanketed the show ground for most of the morning. Initially it was so dense you couldn't even see the horse boxes from the ring. We then had the odd shower & a steady breeze; but by the afternoon, when the Western Classes were to run, we were able to sit in the sun with an ice cream. The unpredictable weather reflected the day which had us revising our plans as entrant numbers were so low. For a short time we thought no-one was going to show up but the event

organizer assured us she'd seen a western saddle on the show ground ... & lo & behold, Sue & Annabel arrived looking stunning in full Western turnout. They were shortly followed by Katherine & Sid, full of smiles & enthusiasm.

Sue had competed with us the previous year with her arab, Reflected Glory. Both looked as if they'd put in some hard work & gave a wonderful performance despite

the wind picking up again, cantering ponies in the adjacent ring plus whoops & screams from the gymkhana games. Silver Moon & Annabel also kept their cool even though they'd not tried western riding before & the English classes racing past next door posed a huge additional challenge. Silver did a fantastic job of adapting to western tack & completing an array of unfamiliar obstacles on the trail course. Sid was ridden by Andrew at our last Bruce Lawrence Clinic but on this occasion carried Katherine around the course. He also had his work cut out with so many mares around to catch his eye & his best mate being ridden in the pony club games only a

short distance away. But being the fine lad he is he put on a show & had his fans cheering especially when he backed up at a very impressive speed without touching either pole.

In our hectic lives, stuffed with high standards & opinions this was a wonderful chance to appreciate some of our clubs more subtle objectives ... to spend time getting to know our horses, understand how they view the world & having fun. A timely reminder that we don't always need the big crowds; because given the opportunity, our horses can show us how great life can be. What ever our expectations were that morning I hope everyone went home having made new friends & inspired to find out how western training can develop a horses full potential. Thank you to everyone who took part & made the effort to come along & support the club. Jennifer did a fantastic job judging our classes & hopefully competitors valued the personal attention she was able to give to advise on future showing.

