

## Area 12 showjumping report

In conjunction with Blackdown Mendip riding club we ran the area 12 novice show jumping on Saturday the 16<sup>th</sup> of February.

We switched venues to the Hand this year who kindly squeezed us in by cancelling some BSJA. This seems to have been a success and hopefully word will get back to the clubs which are further away for next year about the advantages of this venue and Arthur Stevens (our area judge and official for the day) has already requested that we book a date for next year.

It was a bit of an experiment as we ran the Junior competition first in the morning followed by the seniors at approx 1pm, jumping 35 teams in total. In order to make this as profitable as possible we also ran unaffiliated jumping in the outdoor arena from 8.30 to approx 3pm with reasonable entries, particularly in the later classes. I have received very positive feedback from several of the clubs competing saying how good the course and surfaces were and smoothly everything was organised. The clubs who had the furthest to travel from the south of the area also commented that it was well worth the journey. It is great to hear that everyone had an enjoyable day and appreciated the hard work that had gone in to running this event.

The only reason that this event was such a success was due to the many members from both clubs who helped us throughout the long 12 hour day. We had people helping with parking, scoring, arena party, ring stewards and warm up stewards in both outdoor and indoor arenas. We cannot run these events without this assistance and despite the cold those I spoke to told me they enjoyed their shifts helping and watching the jumping. As it is winter and most have horses to do we did our best to split the day up into different sections so that people didn't have to stay all day. This seemed to work very well in the most part. Special thanks must go to all those who stayed for the whole day.

Unfortunately we were unable to field a team this year as Carar Tyer (team stalwart of many years!) had the misfortune of breaking her leg on the Thursday before the competition and as we only had a team of 3 before this it meant that the remaining 2 team members Laura and Steph Boobyer were unable to compete as it is a team competition only. We will hopefully be able to rectify this next year. Carar kindly still came up to judge the outdoor ring in the morning which did necessitate her negotiating 3 flights of exterior stairs up to the judging box with her cast and we wish her a speedy recovery.

The winning junior team of the area champs was Taunton 2, but as these were not a qualifying team qualification for the national championships passed down the line to Shipton and Taunton 1. The senior winning team of the area champs and taking the qualification was Taunton 1 (full results available on [www.brcarea12.org](http://www.brcarea12.org)).

Finally I quote from Arthur "This was the most successful indoor showjumping qualifier" and that is down to all the helpers. Thankyou.

Laura Cavill (area 12 secretary)