

SWA OPEN SPRING SHOW 2019

Sunday 14th April 2019, Chard Equestrian, Somerset

At least this year it was dry all day the only drawback being a cold cutting wind however everyone persevered and there were some excellent ponies and cobs forward, many had entered but were not forward which was a shame particularly in the Welsh Cobs. The ruling from the WPCS not to take entries on the day for the Welsh medal classes had an effect as did the need to have animals vaccinated against equine flu and this will have affected our income. However it was truly quality rather than quantity and our thanks go to everyone. We were very glad to take advantage of the excellent facilities at Chard.

Our Supreme In Hand Champion was Jamie Frost's lovely Section B Carrwood Snow Bunting by Moelview Prince Charming out of Carrwood Kittiwake from the Cheethams' stud in Cheshire, and reserve was Rhydian and Beth Donati's home bred Section A Milwas Looby Loo by the famous palomino stallion Ceulan Lan out of Ceulan Lilly. Having then secured the Welsh Youngstock Champion and Reserve, these two exceptional ponies were awarded the Overall Welsh Champion and Reserve Champion In Hand. Welsh Gelding Champion was Mrs Latonia Conibear's well known Section A Colne Tiger Bay, a big purchase at the 2018 Fayre Oaks High Flyer sale, with Steve Everett's Welsh Part Bred Brookvale Prince George in reserve. Colne Tiger Bay also won the Millcroft Pure Bred Gelding Scheme with Mrs Katrina Chiverton's Welsh Cob Derwen Sior as reserve. Welsh Adult Champion was Jackie and George Cooper's versatile Section C mare Rivervalley Tear-Drop with Colne Tiger Bay in reserve.

In the Mountain & Moorland classes in hand Section Cs did well again with Amber Pryce's Popsters Rheingold and Brilyn Harryette being Champion and Reserve respectively. Part Bred champion was Mrs Claire Rafferty's Song of the Stars with Mrs Amanda Durston's Fairley Elouise in reserve.

There were so many ridden classes for younger members to take part in that they had to squeeze in time to take part in the Young Handler classes, divided into two age groups, culminating in Imogen Davis and Charley White qualifying for the SWA Young Handler of the Year, Skyla Clements already having qualified. Overall Champion Young Handler was Imogen Davis showing Shamrocklake Magma Shakeria.

Entries in the ridden classes were down and by the end of the day had really dwindled mainly because the biting wind had just worn people and ponies down! This did not detract from the stiff competition in the various NPS qualifiers and the eventual Supreme Ridden Champion was Mrs Jane Matthews with her Connemara Coral Malachy with Mrs Claire Rafferty's Part Bred Song of the Stars in reserve.

The Working Hunter classes were well supported and appreciated Nigel Payne's courses for the different competitions. Overall WHP Champion came all the way from West Wales, Lucy Parr with her cob Cilsane Dyminiad Helen (by Carnwallon Llewellyn out of Mowcastle Maystar) with Mrs Berry's Section B Cadlanvalley Buttercup, by Boston Bonaparte out of Wynswood Madam Butterfly in reserve.

Our very grateful thanks to our exemplary judges, Dr Dora Jones, Miss Fiona Leadbitter, Mr Jonathan Batt, Mr Martin Jones and Mrs Ann Nicholls who carried on when chilled to the bone. Our team in the office were superb – Roberta Jones, Yvonne Small (when she wasn't stewarding), and Belinda Watson checking passports and we were so lucky to have such excellent stewards – Vicky Stephens and Yvonne Small in Ring 1, Alice Gould and Amanda Warfield in Ring 2, Sharon Chubb in Ring 3, and Emily and Isobel Chubb in Ring 4 doing the workers. Eve Holt was kept busy on the PA carrying out the important task of giving everyone a call for the next classes due in the rings. An amazing team and I, as Secretary, am eternally grateful to them for all their hard work – couldn't have done it without you!

Sue Hardy, Show Secretary