

SWA YOUNG JUDGES TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT SUNDAY 2ND JUNE 2019

Taking part:

Elsie Wilkins (age 6 so too young for team place)

Skyla Clements

Caitlyn Faull

Arabella Lawrence Hall

Tamia Joyner

Millie Login

Madlin Ridewood

Charley White

Lillie Windsor-Horne

This year the National Young Judges competition will be judging Section Cs and we (competitors, friends and families) had an amazing, very enjoyable and informative day with our judges – Justin Davis and Heidi Bennett from Popsters Stud – carrying out their duties with great care and conscientiousness. They couldn't have been more helpful to our young judges both during the briefing, for which they brought a digital presentation to add to the briefing pack each candidate had received, and whilst assessing a Section C out in the ménage before lunch and before the actual assessment. The Franklins' kindly provided Airyhope Bianca to be the guinea pig.

After lunch the 4 Section Cs made their way to the arena for the assessment both by the judges and the candidates, none of whom had seen the ponies before. First they were viewed as if it were a normal in hand class and then each pony was given a closer inspection by the candidates which were split into groups of 2 and one group of 3, after which each pony was run out individually. We are very grateful to Yvonne Small for bringing her two mares (both past silver medal winners), and Janet Woodbury for bringing her yearling filly and recently broken gelding. They provided very good examples of Cs to be judged both by those inside the arena and those outside! Each candidate had to complete a form on which they wrote down their order of preference

Returning to the house and having handed in their forms, each competitor was interviewed by the judges at the end of which the forms were compared to decide who should go forward to make up the teams. It was a difficult task with only one competitor getting the order the same as the judges' and there were several ties on equal marks. Those not selected should still be very proud of their achievement and for taking part as the marks were close. The judges have made notes on all the mark sheets and these will be returned to the competitors so they can see where they need to improve.

After spending some time going over the results, and in particular taking into account how well the candidates had expressed themselves and their knowledge of the breed, the two teams selected were:

Red Team

Sklya Clements
Arabella Lawrence Hall
Millie Login

Green Team

Tamia Joyner
Madlin Ridewood
Charley White

We are very grateful indeed to Jess Talbot who, in spite of being so busy herself, coordinated the whole event and managed to find the Sections C ponies for the assessment especially as on Friday, someone had to drop out from bringing their two! Thank you Jess – a great effort and a good end result. We wish them all the luck at the final at Malvern in August. In the meantime Justin and Heidi have said that if any of the candidates see them at a show they should come and speak to them and they will happily give them more guidance and answer any questions they have. An invitation for them to visit Popsters was also extended which was gratefully received.

Last but no means least, a big thank you to the Sarum Stud for providing such excellent facilities and a great buffet. With close on over 30 people around it was busy! And the weather held off when it mattered which was a blessing. All in all a very encouraging day in that we have so many keen, knowledgeable young members in the Association.

Sue Hardy