

THE PONY CLUB NFU MUTUAL **NATIONAL QUIZ 2013 – REPORT**

Warwickshire College, Moreton Morrell was the venue for the annual Pony Club NFU Mutual National Quiz, held at the Sports Hall on Sunday, 7th April. A total of thirty Branch and Centre teams competed, including teams from Northern Ireland, England, Wales and Scotland.

The quiz consisted of 8 rounds of questions and topics included The Pony Club, Horse & Pony Care to include Fitness and Feeding, The Countryside, Equestrian Olympics and Paralympic Medallists 2012, Practical Round, Bits, Boots and Bandages, PonyPrep Stables Alphabet and the Picture Round. A Powerpoint display ensured that competitors, parents and spectators were able to view the questions as they were read out, followed by the answers once all answer sheets were handed into the scorers.

Once the Team Managers were briefed, the competitors settled down and the Quiz got under way by the Quiz Master, Mrs Marilyn Boardman. After Round 8 was completed the tables were turned on the parents who had to answer a few general knowledge questions whilst waiting for the final scores to be added up. The parents and spectators did exceptionally well by guessing the answers correctly.

A lunch break was taken after Round 4 where, at the halfway stage, Hampshire Hunt were in the lead with 104 points, closely followed by Chipping and Vale of Taf, equal with 97 points. The leading Centre at this point was Lavant House Stables with 97 points, followed close on their heels by Talygarn Equestrian Centre (90.5) and Friars Hill Stables (83) points.

The standard of knowledge from all quiz competitors was extremely high this year with Area 13 taking the honours of winning both the Branch and Centre competition.

The Branch winners for the second year running, with a different team apart from one Member, were Hampshire Hunt with a 14.5 point lead (285 points) over their nearest rivals, Chipping on (270.5 points), closely followed in third place by Vale of Taf on 268 points.

The Centre winners, were Lavant House Stables, who came 3rd last year, with 263 points, closely followed by Talygarn Equestrian Centre on 261.5 and Friars Hill Stables on 250.5.

The display of team mascots were exceptionally good with Four Winds Equestrian Centre taking the first place rosette with their handmade horses depicting North, South, East and West, and the runners up rosette went to the Cumberland Foxhounds with their lovely knitted fox.

Very special thanks must go to NFU Mutual for sponsoring the National Quiz and providing the lovely rosettes, grooming kit prizes, sashes & salvers and also the additional prizes of lead ropes to 2nd and 3rd placed teams. Each competitor also received a small pot of Haribo Jelly Beans on the day from NFU Mutual which was very much appreciated by all.

Special thanks also go to Angela Craddock and Mary Anderson for devising the quiz questions, Marilyn Boardman for being an excellent quizmaster, my daughter Jessica and the girls from The Pony Club Office, Lucy Goler, Caroline Pole, Sarah Baker, Sarah Hargreaves who did the scoring and Pat Sansome who provided the items and adjudicated in the hall and the Practical Round.

Hannah Clack - National Quiz Secretary