

THE PONY CLUB NFU MUTUAL NATIONAL QUIZ 2014 – REPORT

Warwickshire College, Moreton Morrell was the venue for the annual Pony Club NFU Mutual National Quiz, held at the Sports Hall on Sunday, 13th April. A total of twenty-eight Branch and Centre teams competed, including teams from Northern Ireland, England, Wales and Scotland. Unfortunately Park Lane Stables had transport issues and had to withdraw at the last minute.

The quiz consisted of 8 rounds of questions and topics included The Pony Club, The Stable Yard & Tack Room, Mountains, Rivers & Lakes, Missing Words, Practical Round (Individual), Grooming Clipping & Trimming (Pairs), Picture Round and War Horses in History. 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.

A lunch break was taken after Round 4 where, at the halfway stage, Chipping were in the lead with 109 points, closely followed by Fife Hunt, 106 points and equal third at this stage were Hampshire Hunt and Cheshire Hunt North with 105 points each. The leading Centre at this point was Lavant House Stables with 106 points, followed by Talygarn Equestrian Centre (96) and Friars Hill Stables (93) points.

The standard of knowledge from all quiz competitors was extremely high again this year particularly in Round 2 – The Stable Yard and Tack Room where Chipping, Fife Hunt, Hampshire Hunt, Old Berkeley Hunt (South), Wimbledon gained top marks. In Round 4 – Missing Words, Bramham Moor Hunt, Chipping, East Essex Hunt, Hampshire Hunt, Llangeinor Hunt and Wimbledon also obtained the top marks. Lavant House Stables also achieved top marks in Rounds 1, 2 and 7.

The Branch winners this year were Chipping with 244 points, 9 points clear over their nearest rivals, Llangeinor on 234.5 points, closely followed in third place by Cheshire Hunt North on 233 points.

The Centre winners, were Lavant House Stables, who won for the second year running with 241 points, followed by Talygarn Equestrian Centre on 226 and Friars Hill Stables on 208.5 points.

The home made displays were exceptionally good with Pennant Park Riding Centre taking the first place rosette with their handmade horses from their Centre depicting various disciplines and the runners up rosette went to the Vale of Taf.

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 head collars and bandages. Each competitor also received a squiggy stress horse on the day provided by NFU Mutual.

Blanche Surman, NFU Mutual, also held a free prize draw at the Final, which was drawn today and the winner is Linda Porter from Cumbria. Linda wins a £25 M & S gift card. Congratulations Linda, your gift card will be sent direct to you by NFU Mutual.

Also many, many thanks go to Angela Craddock and Mary Anderson for devising the quiz questions, Marilyn Boardman for being our excellent quizmaster, my daughter Jessica and staff from The Pony Club Office, Caroline Pole, Katherine Betts, Bronte Wadge-Dale, Sarah Baker and Marty Bibby 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