

Pony Club Area 9

CHELTENHAM RACE DAY

2016 Report

This year we were graced with a lovely sunny weather. With a bumper entry we found ourselves dividing the **LYCETTS** 128cm Open 2 ways and the **CHAMPION HEADWEAR** 138cm Novice 3 ways! A big thank you must go to Champion for increasing their sponsorship!! This made for a marathon of 10 races and the officials did an amazing job to keep everything to the timetable, Congratulations to them for keeping everything moving. Something everyone appreciates after a long day.



The first pony of the day to arrive in the **Charlie Longsdon Racing** winners enclosure was the winner of division 1 of the 128cm open, this was Archie Stamp riding in his second season on Boston Bell Boy for his first winner, he just piped on the post Heath Rosselli riding in his first ever race. See picture below. The second division of this **Lycetts** sponsored event went to Ted Featherstone & Silaz who also took the Best Turned Out, this made the long journey from Cambridge seem worthwhile. Ted was riding his 10th winner in only his second season, one to watch I feel. Poppy Scott took second place thus starting a great day for the Apple Tree Stud from near Banbury.



Owned by Poppy's parents Julie & Patrick Scott they run courses for youngsters who don't have their own ponies to enable them to have a go at pony racing. They are well qualified as both worked for John Webber in their younger days and Patrick rode numerous winners under rules

Olivia Tubb took the first division of the **Champion Headwear** 132cm Novice stakes.

This was also an Apple Tree pony and a great rewarded for the dedication of Olivia's parents as they drive her regularly from Hampshire to Banbury as there is nothing like this around them. She has always wanted to be a jockey and is going in the right direction as this is only her 4th race. The winners of the 2nd & 3rd division's where both recording their first winner and what better place

to do it than Cheltenham.. Daniel Ellis was having her second ride on Tealson Topic scoring from Benjamin Bromley who's Bloodstock agent dad Anthony may be on the lookout for a faster pony!! The 3rd division winner, Elliott Stockwell was riding Ninefields Millionaire Splendor who was returning to familiar surroundings as he used to be ridden in Area 9 by a certain Tom Marquand. Elliott's sister Tara was 4th in this race on a full sister to Splendour. They had travelled down from Fife the day before with their friends Archie and Murray Parsons who took 4th and 6th places in the race before.



Elliott below left receiving his prize from Jade Thatcher of Champion.

The Apple Tree Academy where winners again in the **Plough Inn At Ford 138cm Intermediate** race, with Poppy Scott taking it on Robbie & Shona Supples Glin Road. Brad Kent took the runners up spot on Ladies Day and promptly atoned for his beating by taking the next two races! The **Alan King Racing 138cm Open** on Creamy Kate & The **Calmsden Estates** sponsored 148cm Open riding Annie Get Your Gun. 'below' Brad looks a real star of the future and is another who benefited from having an ex Tom Marquand pony as a school master in Glebdale Stop Watch formerly owned by the Bent family.



Champion

Headwear also sponsored the 148cm Novice and this was a 3rd winner on the afternoon for the Apple Tree Centre. This was the turn of Cara Spencer and Chuimbo, another ex area 9 pony and the former partner of Lucy Hammond. Cara was taking part in only her 3rd race and her 2nd on this pony. She is part of the youth training scheme at Apple Tree.



Last but not least was the **Jonjo O'Neill Racing, 148cm Intermediate** stakes. The combination of pony and rider could not have been placed 1st or 2nd in a pony race to run in this race. Daniel Cox with Two the Manor Born managed to hold off a strong challenge from William Curtis riding

Prince of Thieves. This was a good performance as William was 2 stone lighter than Daniel. Daniel looked very stylish & with 7 wins already under his belt in just two seasons he is certainly doing something right. He tells me he also competes in show jumping competitions on his other all round pony. William had some consolation however, as he picked up the trophy for the best Area 9 member in this race. The 138cm Area 9 trophy went to Elliot England who was also very lucky to be awarded the Area 9 bursary for member in the Area. We ask members to write about their selves, their racing experience and so on. The Committee then selects a winner. The prize is a week of instruction on the pony racing course at the British Racing School in Newmarket. It is an amazing prize and sadly this year not many members applied. Good luck to Elliot, have fun.

We could not survive without our sponsors and whereas most of you have had a mention I feel Calmsden Limited deserve a special thank you for sponsoring the day and all the hidden extras. Llanarth Estates have kindly covered the Best turned out for several years now. Thank you to Treehouse Sporting Colours for subsidising the vouchers & ES photography for the Photograph vouchers they kindly gave to the winners. Not forgetting our advertisers and helpers.

We now have to look forward to next year and hope we have another sunny day where we can enjoy all of those lovely smiley faces on the children who have experienced the joy of riding on the Hallowed Turf of Cheltenham.

Belle
&
Charlie Fox

