

**BRITISH SHOW PONY
SOCIETY**

2020

**REPORTS
BOOKLET**

NATIONAL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

2020; what can I say that has not been already been said?? Widely used words to describe the year, unprecedented, challenging, worrying re job/ business security and grieving for lost loved ones. Dark and desperate times.

Yet 2020 began in the usual and now almost forgotten way: Area Winter Shows, early RI qualifiers saw us out braving the elements. Vice Chairman, Paul Cook organised yet another well attended Judges Conference, Bits and Biting being this year's topic. The AGM went smoothly through the business matters, Pip Baker Beall having stood down from the Board after many years took on the mantle of our President...a role she will fully embrace. Much has been said re Showing Icon Robert Oliver, our President for many years; Robert, a great supporter of the Society takes our appreciation, love and every good wish for the future. We welcomed Showing Professional Edward Young to the Board, hopefully he will find the task fulfilling and enjoyable. The annual awards were presented with their usual mix of humour and tears. Well done everyone and thank you to Sharon Thomas for all your hard work. Day gave way to evening and an amazing array of fabulous young people took to the floor at the Annual BSPS Ball. This year we also played host to the Showing Council Awards...congratulations to all.

The media mumblings of a dangerous and unknown virus hit us all full force in March. Wham, we were all in lockdown and the NHS battling with probably the worst pandemic in living memory. Showing didn't feel quite so important then.

However, through the gloom of uncertainty, came glimpses of kindness, helping, amazing fund raising all keeping spirits high. Again that undauntable spirit rose to the fore with our members...the hilarious loo roll challenge, the raw egg/ sugar/shot (put me off eggs for a long time !!!) and so much more that kept us all amused.

Social media became an even more important way of communication. The BSPS Board took to Zoom for their now weekly meetings. Who had ever heard of Zoom before??

There seemed little hope that Showing could be revived, Head Office closed, staff furloughed and our Company Secretary working from home. Major shows were being cancelled, our own Winter Champs ,Midsummer , the RIHS, HOYS, Burghley and then Olympia. Then, a glimmer of hope with the easing of some restrictions, some serious planning and hard work, a Showing Blue print emerged. This allowed Areas the opportunity to plan some training shows, clinics, scaled down shows, all within the current Government and Local and guidelines.

The BSPS inched carefully into planning a much scaled back Summer Championship Show. Entries were good and new way of judging well received. Well done Philip Hilton and the Team.

Holding our breath we then moved on to the new and exciting Area Eventing held at Vale View. In spite of the most appalling weather the venture went well and everyone enjoyed the day. Much food for thought, to develop and build on. Again well done Philip Hilton and his team.

The Heritage Champs again attracted good entries with quality ponies in abundance. A logistical nightmare and again constant implementation of all the rules but it was worth the effort. And just for once it didn't rain!!! Congratulations and well done to Peter Emmerson and Sharon Thomas who pulled out all the stops to make every feel safe.

National Chairman's Report cont

My thanks must go to Executive Officer Joy Hall and the Head Office Team, the Board, Area Chairmen and their Committees, Judges, Stewards, Course Builders and all officials, our generous Sponsors, Team Arena UK, and you our loyal members.... you are much appreciated.

So what for 2021??? As I write England is on the brink of the second National lockdown. I can not predict what, when or where this will end. I can say that the BSPS will be ready to adapt to move forward to bring about a safe environment for showing. This will not last forever, we do have plans for our Area Winter shows our Winter Champs, we hope to offer RIHS, HOYS and Burghley qualifiers. we aim to develop Arena Eventing and plans for Burghley qualifiers are under discussion. The Summer Champs timetable is currently being explored and my wish is to see us all there; please join me in raising glass of fizz to you all!!!

Caring is not in lockdown, Determination is not in lockdown, the BSPS will continue to strive and move safely forwards to ensure that members and their families enjoy safe and happy showing. Let us all hope that 2021 will be filled with fun, laughter and fabulous showing.

My very best wishes to you all,

Until next time,

Take Care, Keep Safe

PAT PATTINSON (National Chairman)

COMPANY SECRETARY'S REPORT 2020

I am delighted to present my annual report for 2020.

First and foremost, I thank all members for their continued support in what has been, by any standards, a most unusual and difficult year.

After our last Conference in 2019, which at the time I thought could not be surpassed, we started 2020 with another informative meeting attended by over 200 judges. This was followed by the Annual Ball, which was a night to remember! Thanks, must go to Sharon Thomas and Marilyn Ludlow who do an amazing job of organising this event every year.

I cant believe that after such a successful Ball and AGM, the whole country went into lockdown and for the next three months. I spent all my time cancelling Shows and Judges and Stewards for both the Winter Championships and the Working Sports Pony Show, and altering dates and classes for the Summer Championships. It has been an incredibly challenging year for all our members and your support has been tremendous.

Amazingly, we managed to hold our 51st Summer Championships, albeit in a reduced format. It was a fantastic Show enjoyed by all who attended. Our COVID-19 precautions worked very well, and we succeeded in keeping everyone who attended safe!! Thanks, must go to our Showing Director, Mr Philip Hilton, and his team who worked tirelessly to ensure that the Show ran smoothly.

Unfortunately, the Burghley Horse Trials were cancelled and with it our wonderful Gold Cup Competition. This was disappointing but totally understandable.

We then managed to hold our Working Sports Pony Show on its rearranged date, and it was also hailed a great success. For the first time, we incorporated, an Arena Eventing competition which members enjoyed, and the course looked super. Thanks again to Mr Philip Hilton and all the stewards and judges who agreed to come to the show complete with their face masks!

Our calendar moved on to the Heritage Championships in October, classes were full of exceptional, quality ponies and dedicated riders who supported the Show even though the Olympia qualification was not on offer. Thanks, must go to Peter Emmerson as Chairman and Sharon Thomas as Show Director who faced several challenges during the show simply because of the large number of entries who attended.

Thanks must go to our Areas and their Area Chairmen especially Joanne Pybus who worked tirelessly to produce a Blueprint for Showing in conjunction with the Showing Council and then encouraged the Areas to run shows to give our members the opportunity to compete notwithstanding all the challenges they faced.

Finally, my thanks must also go to all the Council Members who give up enormous amounts of time and energy to ensure that the Society continually strives for perfection, to Lynne, Sharon and Rebecca for their commitment and hard work, to the stewards and officials for running brilliant shows under difficult restrictions and last, but by my no means least, to our Executive Officer, Joy Hall, for guiding the Society ever onwards and upwards!

KAREN TOYNTON WARD (Company Secretary)

SUMMER CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW REPORT

The fact that we held a Summer Championship Show at all is nothing short of a miracle. It went ahead due to the hard work of a few dedicated people. The Head Office Team faced not just a logistical nightmare of timings and numbers, they also ensured that all Covid, Government and local restrictions were adhered to. Everyone arriving at the venue needed to have essential and necessary documents in place. That's just for starters!!!!

Our judges, stewards and officials have always been hardworking and again, this year, wherever possible they stepped up to the mark to support the Society and the Show. It was fabulous to see many new faces working alongside some stalwarts. Good for the future too. I could never have imagined that I would ever be thanking Covid Stewards for carrying out the difficult task of reminding us all of the current restrictions in such a pleasant way. Well done and thank you.

I should also like to thank and congratulate Team Arena UK who worked tirelessly to help our members feel safe and happy to be there.

Every Society needs its loyal Sponsors and we are very fortunate to have people who believed in us and our ability to provide a Championship Show. You are very much appreciated.

My personal thanks must go to Show Director and Acting Summer Show Chairman, Philip Hilton. Philip faced the daunting task of pulling everything together before, during and indeed after the Show. He did a sterling job. Super star stuff!!!

Despite the restrictions and two days of appalling weather, members came from far and wide. Classes were full with quality animals in abundance. Some notable differences this year; classes were judged without marks, some in two sections and a final walk round introduced. Many members embraced this new format and it gives rise to some interesting debate on the way forward. Some classes were sadly forfeited in this scaled back show, however, even with the loss of the prestigious Desert Orchid, Course Builder Graham Barclay built some thought provoking tracks. Nice to see Ruby Ward up and running, taking the WHP Supreme with 133cm Noble Peppermint. The Simply The Best series attracted quality entries in all sections. Well done to Mia Donaldson with 148cm SP Wilderness Early Bird and Charlotte Caulfield with 143cm SHP Romano Spot of Distinction for taking their relevant titles.

The 'mini' classes saw some of the strongest competition, so well done Harriet Mustoe with LRSHP Thistledown Lawman on taking top honours. The coveted Pretty Polly Supreme went to Lacey Berret with Greendown Rene who gave a sparkling show to see off all the competition.

Our Heritage members were out in force, however, the overall Supreme Heritage Ridden went to new partnership, Adan Forster and Welsh section D, Menai Eurostar. Meanwhile, the Heritage WHP top spot being claimed by Kelly Capsticks and Highland pony Aigas of Achnacarry.

The final day saw Philip Hilton select Intermediate SH The Politician ridden by Ellis Tavener Burns as the overall Supreme of Show. A fitting end to an amazing show.

Summer Championships Show report cont

2020; a very different Championship Show held in a very different year; non the less ,three days of excellent competition against all the odds. much food for thought as we move into 2021. As I write our Executive Officer, Joy Hall is already working on next year's timetable!!!!

Again, my personal thanks to all involved and especially to you, our loyal members, I raise a virtual glass as a toast to you all. We will move forwards. Take care and keep safe.

PAT PATTINSON (National Chairman)

DOPE TESTING REPORT FOR 2020

To say that this year has been somewhat difficult for everyone is perhaps an understatement!

The early shows in February and March were lucky to go ahead and then the later part of the year we were thankfully able to enjoy a re-gigged Summer Championships and Heritage Championships.

This year, because of the situation, we didn't undertake any Dope testing, however, that is not to say that we haven't been working behind the scenes! I have been to two working party meetings with BEFAR organised by The Showing Council on dope testing and ways to move forward. I am sure a lot of you have already read about this in the press. The BSPS Council voted that at this point of time it is not suitable for our needs..... but have left the door ajar re visiting a possible uniform policy for all showing societies in the future.

With many question and answer sessions, it also made us look at our own Dope testing Rules and as a result have amended and updated them. It is important for every member joining the Society that they read the amended version, as now you will have to tick a box on our membership forms to say that you have read and understood them before applying for membership. At the end of the day any doping is a welfare issue for both competitors and their ponies.

One of the new amendments is that you cannot bring a pony onto the show ground unless it is being entered in a class. Any horse or pony on the show ground will be liable for testing whether it competes or not. I urge every member to familiarise themselves with all the new amendments and to also read the list of banned and controlled substances on the FEI website.

To clarify a BANNED substance has no place whatsoever in an Equine. A CONTROLLED substance (which may need to be administered by a vet) has withdrawal time from a ponies system. Owners/producers/competitors need to have a conversation with their vet if they intend to compete with that pony if a controlled substance has been administered. Ignorance will not be a defence!!

Re stable security.....it is up to the owner/producer/competitor to ensure the safety of their own pony at a show. If they feel that someone may try to administer something to their pony and as a result a positive test is proven it is up to them to PROVE that someone other than them has "nobbled" their pony!!

DAWN CHRISTIE (B.S.P.S. Dope Testing Steward)

JOINT MEASUREMENT BOARD REPORT 2020

In common with most organisations the JMB has felt the effects of the COVID19 virus Pandemic.

Despite an expected reduction in ponies being measured, the JMB has been busy with internal restructuring, the Company Secretary of many years has left and his replacement Miss Catryn Bigley has taken over and is coming to grips with her new and complex task.

She can be contacted at the New Office Address of:-

The Joint measurement Board Ltd. P.O. Box 396

Hereford. HR1 9QQ. Telephone 01981 510201.

Email:- catryn@thejmbonline.co.uk.

If you need to speak to me with any queries I can be contacted via the BSPS Office

The JMB Board Members have been pro-active during the lockdown and the imposed restrictions with frequent 'Zoom@' meetings which I have attended.

In 2021 Random Dope Testing may now take place at measurement centres and the JMB will be looking closely at any unnecessarily long journeys travelled to a measuring venue. These animals could be re-called and re-measured at the request of the JMB.

The Board has decided that 'Drop In' visits will be made where measurements are taking place to check Pads, Sticks, etc. Also, to observe correct procedures are implemented.

Due to government restrictions which may be in force at the time of measurement, it is advisable to check with your Vet if you or your agent are able to present the animal for measurement personally, or if it must be handled at the venue by an experienced veterinary nurse.

With best wishes to you all for 2021

TAKE CARE, KEEP SAFE.

MIKE HALL (BSPS JMB Steward)

ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

2020, the year which will go down in history, never to be forgotten, just as the Great Plague in 1665'

For us, this year started with a Ball entitled SIMPLY THE BEST, and it truly was, from the beginning to the end, it was simply one great party. Tina Turner was mind blowing. From her extraordinary self-introduction, within two minutes the dance floor was overflowing and no one sat down again the whole evening.

Sadly the 2021 Ball will not go ahead because of the Covid restrictions with self-distancing and the numbers that can attend. Watch this space though for news of the 2022 Ball, Put a note in your diary for February 5th. We will have a lot to make up and it will be the Ball of the decade. Until then though, I am sure that our Summer Champs next year we will be able to celebrate with a big party, and boy the BSPS members know how to celebrate.

Following on from the ball, the BSPS really did become SIMPLY THE BEST leading the Showing World forward with two Championship shows, all run safely under Government guidelines and the Showing Blueprint.

However the most important thing missing was the Children's entertainment, but don't worry we will be back in 2021 with lots of new exciting crafts, games and entertainment. So don't forget to come and join us.

Thank you, to all the children who took part in the Easter Picture Competition. We had lots of great pictures, which I made into several collages that I took to a local Nursing home and Hospice to brighten the residents day.

Unfortunately for the Lego competition, the models were fantastic but due to a computer glitch I lost all the details. If you entered, could you please contact the office with your details, and gifts will be flying your way.

We hope you have all kept up with your school work and your home tutors have survived and been educated on the way. More importantly, we hope you have managed to keep riding your ponies and having lots of fun.

Maralyn and I really look forward to seeing you all next year in our Entertainment Bubble. I have heard that Santa will still becoming, as he has been nominated as an ESSENTIAL front line worker and he will having one of the first Covid jobs. So for now keep safe, and we wish you a very Happy Christmas and a very healthy New Year

SHARON & MARALYN

HERITAGE CHAMPIONSHIPS 2020

I arrived at the show Friday with a feeling of excitement and apprehension on running a show under Covid rules, but my confidence soon grew when I saw firsthand the excellent preparation that had been put in by the BSPS and Arena UK offices. The set up went without any major mishap probably the worst was to re organise the working-in on the surfaces as opposed to the grass.

The first day passed off without incidence the weather was cold but not wet. We finished the WHP classes just before dark and the TV cameras filming the indoor arena went well.

The second day was a great success, except the TV cameras were at times looking at empty ring; the WHP classes had to be brought forward to ensure the supremes could be finished in time for the supreme of show in the indoor at 7.00pm.

The supreme of show again proved the highlight for me and the social distancing crowd, standing with them I felt the tension, apprehension and intrigue of what this highly respected person of the showing world David Tatlow and his very knowledgeable daughter Lorraine Homer would do. They watched the go round and then before the individual show they gave every pony a careful thoughtful inspection for confirmation. The ridden shows went off well, following which the ponies were lined up then 4 were brought forward nose to tail for detailed inspection. They then brought their winner forward. It was many in the crowds favourite the 4 year old Dartmoor Kingshaugh Hailstorm owned by Zoe Clarke, produced and partnered by Charley Baxter. Both David and Lorraine were very impressed with its quality and confirmation.

Once again I can report a very successful show, many thanks must go to Karen and the office and particularly to the show director Sharron Thomas who left no stone unturned to achieve a fantastic 2020 show and of course the chief stewards and their teams without whom we could not have ran a show.

PETER J. EMMERSON (Chairman)

CHAIRMAN OF AREA CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Before I begin my report, I would like to extend a huge thanks to my predecessor Mrs Barbara White who has worked tirelessly in the position of Chairman of Area Chairman and continues to work hard as Chairman of her area.

When I took over the position of Chairmen of Area Chairmen in May from my position as Vice Chairmen, little did I know quite how challenging the summer ahead would be!

Along with the majority of the other Chairmen I hadn't even heard of zoom, let alone used it, but it has now become a vital part of our ability to stay connected and in fact this year we have had more regular meetings than ever before and will in the future continue to use this method of meeting but hopefully with one in person each year when circumstances allow. Area Chairmen bridge the gap between the members and Council and are vital in reporting each individual Areas views on rules, new competitions etc as well as supporting each other with ideas and new ways to run events.

During lockdown our wonderful Areas came up with many ingenious ways to engage and entertain each other. We saw the loo roll challenge, photo competitions, interviews with equestrian personalities, get to know you committee, quizzes, zoom young judges training, word searches and talent competitions to name but a few! Whilst these were no substitute for being out competing they helped us all to stay in touch with friends in and out of our Area when we couldn't meet in person.

In due course, we were able to run training shows and those Areas who felt able to safely do so were rewarded with enthusiastic and grateful competitors. Long may it continue!

Many area committees volunteered helpers to act as covid stewards etc at our Summer Championships and Heritage Championship shows, which I know Head Office were very grateful for.

2021 will be another challenging year but one for which we will all be prepared. There are some exciting opportunities for our BSPS Areas moving into the new year and I am very proud to be a part of it all.

Stay safe, and I hope that you all have as Merry a Christmas as you possibly can and a very Happy New Year.

JOANNE PYBUS (Chairman of Area Chairman)

BSPS SCOTTISH BRANCH LTD – CHAIRMANS REPORT 2020

A year like no other, that is how I would describe the past nine months. Autumn has arrived the days are getting shorter and much colder. Ponies have grown their winter coats and clipping will be a necessity for all those animals still in work.

The Corona Virus has hit us hard and BSPS Scotland have not been able to run any events since pre lock down in March. Everyone has been affected and I can only hope that 2021 will see us getting back to some sort of near normality; at the moment that seems distant, but we must look onwards and upwards.

Our Training Day in February with Kirsty Aird went very well, but the support for this was a little down, so we need to encourage our Members to come to any future Training events. Sincere thanks to Kirsty for her continued work.

The Warm Up Show at Muirmill in February was a great success, and we continue to grow and develop this event every year. Thanks to Elaine for running this popular competition.

Our final show before lockdown, was a most successful WHP Show held at Champfleurie in March. My thanks to Mrs Ogilvie and family for their work in staging this event. Graham Barclay was the course builder and Carrie Scobie assisted him.

Our WHP jumps remain in storage as most venues now have their own set of WHP jumps.

We ran a hugely popular Training weekend in September at Sarah Oakden's in Cupar, Fife. We had courses both days and everyone was very happy with the results. Thanks go to Sarah, Graham and Elaine for all their hard work. Elaine is a Covid Steward and ensured all current rules were in place.

We are holding a WHP at the end of October, again at Champfleurie, with strict guide lines in place. Graham and Carrie are course building and Peter Page will be our covid steward and show convenor, hopefully we will have a good entry forward.

A huge thank you to Elaine who has worked tirelessly in the background all season, she ran a most successful "Virtual Show" and has kept our media reports and web site up to date with all details.

I would also like to thank my board for their support. We have had many Zoom meetings to discuss and organise BSPS Scotland over the summer months; arranging our calendar for next year, hoping that our shows and events will all take place.

Sadly, we had to cancel our Dinner Dance / Points Awards Ceremony, which would have taken place in November at Airth Castle, but we have managed to transfer our booking to November 2021. We also have no points competition this year, so again we hope to continue as per usual next year.

Our list of events for 2021 is available on our website and I look forward to being in a position to carry on with our programme next year.

Finally, I would like to thank all the members of BSPS Scotland for their continued support, I am extremely grateful to you for all your help, patience and understanding during this difficult year. We all look forward to getting back to shows, winning prizes, seeing friends and competing our lovely ponies.

Take care and stay safe

JOYCE COLTART (Scottish Branch Chairman)

QUALIFYING SHOWS REPORT 2020

I never thought in a million years that I would have to provide a report of this nature! Due to the Covid-19 pandemic (as if you need reminding!) so few qualifying shows took place this year and with the RIHS and Olympia both being cancelled it was definitely a year to try and forget. On the positive side however, extremely successful Summer and Heritage Championships were able to take place so thanks to the whole BSPS team and also Lauren and her team at Arena UK.

After consulting my colleagues, Joanne Pybus & Sharon Thomas, all the qualifiers for 2020 have been transferred to 2021 so fingers crossed for a complete season next year! Looking forward to seeing all our qualified members and their ponies at Hickstead for the RIHS from the 20th-25th July.

With regards to Olympia, it was sad this didn't take place but instead at the Heritage Show we had Best of Breeds, and once again our thanks to our generous sponsor, Robert LeMieux, for providing the superb rugs, and there were some excellent photos in the trade press with the LeMieux logo prominently displayed.

Happy Showing in 2021!

Hands! Face! Space!

SIMON RICHARDSON (Qualifying Shows Representative)

BSPS JUDGES ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE REPORT 2020

The BSPS Judges Assessment Committee has had a busy but challenging year in 2020. As Chairman I would like to thank my Vice Chairman Joanne Pybus, the Committee for their hard work and support and the Head Office Team, in particular Karen Toynton Ward for all her help in organising the judges conference and assessment days.

The year started with our traditional and extremely well attended judges conference held on the 1st February 2020 at the Marriott Hotel, Leicester. I am very pleased that we are able to continue to work in partnership with the National Pony Society and this year for the first time with the British Show Horse Association to enable BSPS Judges who are on either of those 2 panels and who attended this conference to count as the attendance at a judge's conference for those 2 organisations. I know how much BSPS judges on other panels appreciate this opportunity and the subjects that we choose at our conference are those that are important to whichever judge's panel you are on. Thanks in particular go to Janet James NPS, Nigel Hollings, Chairman BSHA (BSPS Council Member), David Ingle and the BSHA Board for their approval and support.

This year's conference had an external speaker Tricia Nassau-Williams from the Loriners Company who discussed Bits and Biting, Dr Kate Allen BVSc CertEM (IntMed) DipACVSMR MRCVS RCVS Recognised Specialist in Equine Sports Medicine, Langford Vets University of Bristol who sent an informative video on judging horses who we suspect as not being sound in their wind, issues of 'Social Licence' for showing and judges dilemmas.

On the following Saturday the 8th February 2020 we held the future judge's assessment day at Arena UK, for the flat and mountain and moorland panel. The day was extremely well attended and thanks go to members of the assessment committee who provided informative talks at the start of the day, training for future judges and those who brought ponies forward for the assessment that provided a very wide range of animals to judge across the sections. A number of candidates were put straight on to the panel and a significant number were put onto the future judges panel and went off immediately to book future judging appointments.

Some 6 weeks later none of us could have predicted that we would be in the heat of the Covid-19 pandemic, lockdown followed and so many people's lives were tragically affected by this dreadful virus. The suspension of many of the normal activities we all undertake were curtailed and only from July onwards was there any resumption of the shows we all love and enjoy.

Unfortunately, future judging appointments had to cease due to Covid-19 restrictions and we very much hope that the candidates will be able to continue where they left off in 2021.

I am very proud that the BSPS were able to hold a Summer Championship, Sports Pony and Heritage Championship Show that enabled us to get back to some kind of normality but unfortunately our Young Judges competition could not be held in 2020. Covid-19 has meant that we have had to respond and alter how we have judged our classes and going back to 'the traditional judging methods' for the flat classes without marks, pull in and a final walk round etc will I am sure be something we will be discussing at next year's judges conference.

This report does provide me with the opportunity to thank all our judges for their ongoing support in 2020 particularly when a significant number of you would not have had the opportunity to judge at all. This demonstrates everyone's commitment to showing and the need to support all the showing societies to ensure that we can continue to enjoy the sport we love when Covid-19 is under control. The success of our 3 shows demonstrated our members, judges, officials, course builders and sponsors commitment and enthusiasm.

In 2021 we will be holding a virtual Judges Conference on Saturday 6th February 2021 and very much hope to hold a Working Hunter Pony Future Judges Assessment at our Sports Pony Show at Vale View Equestrian Centre on 4th and 5th April 2021.

PAUL COOK (Chairman B.S.P.S. Assessment and Judges Committee)

WORKING SPORTS PONY SHOW

The BSPS Working Sports Pony Show took place on October 3rd at Vale View Equestrian Centre in Leicestershire. This was a new experience for the society both in venue and the main body of classes. Because of uncertainty regarding Covid we did not have the two days of competition we had originally planned. The centre has a wonderful “all weather” menage where it was hoped to have a full day of WHP classes. Because of the gales and torrential rain forecast we moved these classes indoors. Rachel Turner built a lovely course and classes, particularly the mini`s, were full of quality ponies.

Vale View has an amazing out-door all weather surface dedicated to the eventing type competition, water complex, banks and a full array of cross country type fences. We used this to hold our first Arena Eventing competition. Built and run by Vale View staff these classes included a round of Show Jumping followed immediately by a “cross country” round which was timed. Faults over the two sections were cumulative and the nearest the optimum time “ across country”, not the fastest, were the most successful. This competition was massively popular, it was so interesting watching both ponies and jockeys enjoying what was for most a new challenge. These classes are something the society hopes to build on.

The day was quite a steep learning curve for all those involved, but thoroughly enjoyable. Once again the organisational skills of Joy and Karen were very evident and as always our volunteer team of stewards and judges were amazing. It was great to see our society Chairman, Pat Pattinson, dust off her microphone and spend the day commentating on the WHP classes. Our Vice-Chairman, Paul Cook, used his expertise to great effect commentating on the Arena Eventing.

A very successful day with I hope a great future.

PHILIP HILTON