



MIDLANDS CARRIAGEDRIVING

PRESS RELEASE

Champions are made at Catton Park

Midlands Carriagedriving (MC) held its annual Club Championships at Catton Park 16 – 17 September and despite a small field classes were competitive with some leaders falling by the wayside as others excelled in the marathon.

In the Pre-Novice class Bob Auton led after dressage and cones but he had to give best to Sandra Jackson whose obstacle times were quicker, the latter taking the class by less than 12 penalties. Philip Wright took the Novice class; he led after dressage from Helen Jordan and Joanne Gadsby. Helen overhauled Philip after the cones, however, an accumulation of time penalties on the marathon course dropped her down the order. Joanne suffered a carriage malfunction soon after setting out on Section A and had to retire, as a result Philip regained his lead with quick obstacle times. Rosemary Armstrong, who had been fifth after dressage, also leap-frogged Helen after finishing second in the marathon and was second overall.

Drivers in the Intermediate class had everything to play for on marathon day as only 3.8 penalties separated the first four after dressage and cones. Fiona Powell, driving one of her tandem ponies, won the marathon by 0.5 of a penalty from overnight leader Claudia Bunn, also driving one of her tandem, but it wasn't enough to snatch the overall lead. Linda Wiggin was eliminated for missing a gate in Obstacle 4 so the final result was Claudia Bunn first, Fiona Powell second and Anne Lightfoot third.

Young Driver Megan Wheeldon, second after dressage, led both cones and marathon to take the Open class with Karen Scott-Barrett second; Steve Trebble came up the order for third after Sue Corlett was eliminated for driving a gate backwards in Obstacle 5. Clare Marley was leading the Pairs class from Emma Burton and David Wheeldon after the first two phases but had to retire at Obstacle 5. David also retired out on the course, leaving Emma the sole survivor.

In the Teams class Mark Carruthers led after dressage from Angie Smith and Emma Young but blotted his copybook when he was eliminated in the cones. Angie picked up time penalties on Section B of the marathon course which dropped her to second overall, Emma taking the spoils. In the One Day Event Elisabeth Greensmith led throughout with her single pony from Dawn Tebbett who was driving a pony pair.

Sadly, due to changes in farming policy, this may have been the last Club Championships to be held at Catton Park although MC will be holding its 2018 spring event at the popular venue where members have competed for over 20 years.

Full results can be found on: www.midlandscarriagedriving.co.uk

*Issued on behalf of Midlands Carriagedriving by
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