



MIDLANDS CARRIAGEDRIVING

PRESS RELEASE

Peggy does the double while Lynn keeps title in the family at BC's National Championships

Midlands Carriagedriving (MC) members did the club proud at the recent British Carriagedriving (BC) National Championships held at Cricklands, part of the David Broome Event Centre near Chepstow (14 – 16 September), taking home two championship titles and three reserves. In addition to these titles, MC Chairman Dave West was presented on the Friday night with the 'Club of the Year' award whereby MC members gained the most points at national and regional competitions during the 2018 season. Every member who contributed points receives a medal. This is the second time in three years that MC has won the award.

At Cricklands Nicola Corby and her father Geoff Kirby's very popular and talented skewbald mare Peggy headed the Intermediate Horse Championship after leading comfortably in dressage and winning the marathon phase from Reserve Champion Mark Riley driving his young KWPN Danno. This was Peggy's second national title, having won the Open Horse class with Geoff in 2015. Nicola and Peggy finished the season on a roll, having won their class at Bywell Hall and MC's Intermediate Club Championship in the last three weeks. They also took home the Terry Bailey Trophy for Best Combined Dressage and Marathon score in Single Horse classes.

Mark, who won the Novice Horse Championship in 2017, did his best to pull off the double. However, his wife Lynn, driving her Hackney x cob Markswood Lucky Lad, kept the title in the family when heading the same class in 2018. Lynn, who was lying in fourth place after dressage flew the obstacles to take an overnight lead then sealed her title with one of only nine double clear rounds in the cones. Rosemary Armstrong drove a much improved dressage test with her Irish mare J B Lady and completed in fifth place.

Sue Hargreaves and her Welsh Section C geldings Oakmill Lorenzo and Oakmill Leonidas did not qualify for the Championships until heading their class at Bywell Hall, but there was no doubting her ability, being crowned Reserve Open Pony Pair Champion, just 9.03 penalties behind the winner. Wendy Wadsworth had an enjoyable, if safe, competition to complete in eighth place.

The third Reserve Champion for the club came in the Advanced Pony Pairs when Joseph Adams put in a cracking performance with his Welsh Section D and Welsh X geldings and mare, Degla Amazing Grace, Rebel and Brenrose Ambassador.

The Open Single Pony class saw a great tussle between four MC members; Granville Styler – who was at his last competition with his Welsh Section C Crugybar Flash Jack (Bobby) – Megan Wheeldon and her father David's Welsh Section D Penraven Prince, Stephen Trebble and his own Welsh Section D Taraco Diablo and Julie Tomasik with her Welsh Section C Synod Red Baron. Granville finished his competition career with a lovely double clear in the cones to finish in sixth place overall. Megan, who had been lying sixth overnight drove clear in the cones but accumulated 0.97 time penalties which put her 0.01 behind Granville for seventh place. Stephen completed in eighth with Julie finishing ninth.

Three other MC members were taking part; Sara Clough unfortunately had to retire from the final, cones, phase in the Advanced Single Horse class after lying fifth overnight. Angela Smith rose from seventh after dressage to complete in fifth place overall in the Pony Fours class while Karen Bassett completed in seventh place in a large Horse Fours class. Karen overcame a couple of errors in dressage to take fourth place in the marathon which pulled her up the line. Bringing together a new team of horses is never an easy task but Karen, who was four times national champion in the Horse Fours and seven times champion in Pony Fours, is aiming for a higher finish next year.

Full information on Midlands Carriagedriving can be found at www.midlandscarriagedriving.co.uk

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