



MIDLANDS CARRIAGEDRIVING

PRESS RELEASE

Successful return to training and ODE format at Tutbury

Returning to its original format of training on Saturday and a one-day event on Sunday proved highly successful at Midlands Carriagedriving's Tutbury event (2 to 3 May). Applications for training with Peter Bennett were over-subscribed and subjected to a ballot; the fortunate drivers receiving tuition and advice from one of driving trials' most experienced masters while being videoed for useful feedback.

Despite heavy overnight rain ground conditions held for the ODE on Sunday over what proved to be a course requiring a level of fitness for horses to cope with the hills of Staffordshire followed by the four well-gated and flowing obstacles.

In the Novice class Megan Wheeldon lay second to para-equestrian Sue Johnson after dressage but Megan snatched the lead by virtue of the only double clear in cones and then recorded the best marathon score of the day to take the red rosette with Sue in second place. Megan's dad, David, drove his pony pair in the mixed Multiples. There were just 5.8 penalties dividing the five-strong class in dressage and a good cones score brought David up from last to third with Libby Priest, driving a horse pair, maintaining her dressage lead. David then upped the ante with his speedy ponies to claim the class from Ruth Auton, now back in the swing of driving her pair after a hairy moment in the first obstacle at Catton Park two weeks previously.

Geoff Kirby recorded the best dressage of the weekend, a highly creditable 29.92 and kept his nose in front to take the Open class despite Sara Clough snapping at his heels. In the two-pony Intermediate class, Julie Tomasik won thanks to her better dressage as she and Granville Styler both had just one cone down and marathon times separated by a mere 0.25 of a penalty. The Pre-Novice class went to Lianne Dolan.

ENDS

*Issued on behalf of Midlands Carriagedriving by
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