



SIDESADDLE SHOW IN SPAIN

The Spanish Sidesaddle Association held an International Sidesaddle Show in Cordoba last month of May 2014, coinciding with the exhibition of the three Riding Schools of “Cordoba Ecuestre”, the Portuguese School of Equestrian Art and the Cadre Noir of Saumur that took place in the bullring. A full weekend for sidesaddle riders and horse lovers alike.

The sidesaddle competition took place in the central courtyard arena of the Royal Stables that date back to 1572 adjacent to the 8th century Moorish fortress.

The heat was so intense that the initial schedule was changed to avoid the hottest hours of the day.

On Friday afternoon, Vanessa Hood gave a lecture on “Sidesaddle riding guidelines and the choice of the appropriate sidesaddle”, while the riders spent the afternoon exercising their horses.

Alongside the Spanish riders, there were 2 French riders and 2 British riders. Frederique Vigné from France travelled with her Spanish horse Xaloc IV all the way to Cordoba; while the others, had to bring their sidesaddles along with them. French rider, Carole Puccini and both the British riders, Hazel Allin and Emma Brown rode horses owned by “Cordoba Ecuestre”, that had never been ridden sidesaddle before. Both Carole and Hazel rode purebred Spanish horses, while Emma rode a very sharp cross bred trained for “vaquera” work.

Saturday morning started off with a parade through some of the historic landmarks of Cordoba, World Heritage Site, drawing the attention of many foreign tourists visiting the city that day. The riders set off towards the gate of the roman bridge between the river and the mosque, continuing round the Moorish fortress to the north wall where the riders stopped for a photo shoot between the Tower of Homage and the Tower of the Lions and entering the Royal Stables through the main gate with another photo session in the riding hall and the main courtyard. Immediately after, the sidesaddle competition started with different classes according to the dress and style of riding, as well as other classes for younger riders, horses and equitation.

The free exhibitions took place on Sunday morning with classes for individual, pairs, mother and daughter, and carrousel. Finishing with a liberty dressage display by Frederique Vigné with her horse Xaloc VI.

Saturday afternoon all went to the Cordovan bullring to see the performance of the 3 schools, each of the schools showing the best of their style of riding. Once finished the sidesaddle group went down to the arena to meet the riders followed with a very late dinner at one of the typical restaurants in the “patios” old district.

A very intensive weekend for all, with a wonderful opportunity to see and learn. The Spanish Sidesaddle Association is very grateful to Vanessa Hood who judged our show and from whom we learnt so much, and to the foreign riders that came, all were impressed by their good riding and enjoyed very much to have the opportunity to see them ride in Spain.



The Spanish Sidesaddle Association is now in touch with the organizers of the Jerez Horse Fair in the hope of achieving a similar event during the 3rd weekend of May.

Photos

- 1.- Side saddle riders in the central courtyard arena surrounded by orange trees. On the left the youngest rider, María Dolores Muñoz García riding the oldest horse at the show, a purebred stallion, alongside her mother, María Dolores García La Torre, on her lusitano stallion, both wearing the “*goyesco*” habit ; Hazel Allin on the bay Spanish horse and Emma Brown on the grey part bred. Photo: Emy del Tufo
- 2.- Rocío Barbero riding a purebred Spanish horse in vaquera sidesaddle. Photo: Emy del Tufo
- 3.- Sidesaddle riders in front of the Tower of the Lions. Emma Brown and Hazel Allin who travelled to Cordoba with their saddles and habits, between Ana Vidal, vicepresident of the Spanish Sidesaddle Association, riding vaquero style, on the left, and Mercedes González Cort, President of the Spanish Association in her 18th century Spanish costume, as is also used by the riders of “*Cordoba Ecuestre*”. Photo: Javier de la Uz
- 4.- Sunday line up for prize giving in front of the Royal Stables main building. Photo: Javier de la Uz
- 5.- Event Poster