



The Side Saddle Association[®] *International Celebration Weekend*

The event opened with International Day on Saturday 9th May with a welcoming address by Mrs Janet Senior, Chairman of *The Side Saddle Association* which set the scene for a day of colourful, elegant and action packed displays.



The International Day displays were co-ordinated by Mrs Ginny Oakley Pope supported by Mrs Nadya Brown.

ACT 1: A RIDE THROUGHOUT THE NORTH WEST DISPLAY

Area 18 members Julia Boardman ,Susan Fernside ,Helena Pixton ,Esther Turner and Emily Worthington supported by foot soldiers Kirstie Barron ,Lewis Gambles, Dolly Green, Cath Marchbank, Karl Oulton , John and Sue Pixton ,John Turner and Judy Worthington took the audience on a tour of the North West of England incorporating the areas of Lancashire, Greater Manchester and Merseyside.

The Football Association was founded in 1863 and local football teams from around the country quickly joined the association. With 4 huge clubs in the north west, Manchester UTD, Everton Football Club, Manchester City and Liverpool Football Club these 4 teams are known & supported throughout the footballing world. There is great rivalry between all these teams especially on derby days and during the display we had a local derby between Liverpool & Everton with Emily representing Everton & Helena is representing Liverpool.

When the Liverpool and Manchester Railway was approaching completion, the directors of the railway ran a competition to decide if locomotives would be used to pull the trains. Known as the **Rainhill Trials**, they were run in October 1829 just a few miles away from Aintree. Five engines competed, running back and forth along a mile length of track at Rainhill. Stephenson's Rocket was the only locomotive to complete the trials, and was declared the winner. The Stephenson's were given the contract to produce locomotives for the railway and public transport would never be the same again.

The display saw two ladies enjoying the new railway experience, with us all wondering where Julia and Sue were going as they reached the station.

We soon discovered they were off to the beach! One of the popular destinations of holiday makers in the area has always been the famous seaside resorts, such as Southport and Blackpool. For generations children have been promised a treat for the first one to spot the Blackpool Tower! It wasn't long before we saw the team buying rock and ice cream, lounging in deck chairs, having their photo taken and putting flags in sandcastles.

Our regions beaches have always been popular with horse riders. In fact racehorse trainer Ginger McCain liked to train some of his horses on the sands here at Southport! Before we knew it Ginger was before our eyes with Esther Turner riding the legendary Red Rum!



Of course we now know that Red Rum went on to be the most successful Grand National Horse ever – with an unequaled 3 wins and was twice the runner up. His statue can be seen at Aintree and Red Rum is buried at the winning post. His epitaph reads

"Respect this place,
this hallowed ground,
a legend here,
his rest has found,
his feet would fly,
our spirits soar,
he earned our love for evermore"

Aintree and Red Rum – you can never think of one without the other.



ACT 2: PAS DE DEUX

Chloe Gunn and Lauren Allin are both Area 12 Members

Chloe rode Oaklawn Gypsy (aka Bertie) .Bertie is a very versatile little horse who has turned his hoof to most disciplines! Chloe and Bertie have been together for 8 years and have previously qualified for the Badminton dressage championships at Elementary level and have won the Pony of the Year. At last year's Side Saddle National Championships they won the Intermediate Rider of the Year title, the second Rider of the Year title they have won in 2 years! They won both the Intermediate Jumping and Equitation test. Last year finished on a high for the pair as they won the title of Champion Side Saddle Horse of Great Britain at the Royal London Horse Show. They can't wait to see what this year brings!



Lauren Allin and Ashton Flight (aka Fin) have previously evented up to BE Novice level and are currently competing at BD elementary and medium. Last year at the National Side Saddle Show they won the Open Jumping for the second year running, and were placed 4th in the prestigious ride off, their third year in a row of reaching that stage! They are hoping to do just as well if not better this year!

They both regularly perform their Pas de Deux at displays around the country including Blenheim International Horse Trials! They have won the pairs class at the National Show for the last 2 years in a row and hope to compete in the pairs again this year. They gave a stunning display to the delight of the crowd.