

ACT 6: JUNIOR PAS SEUL (SOLO MUSICAL DISPLAY) - THE GREAT BRITISH BAKE OFF

Mary Goodridge was representing Area 11. 2014 National Side Saddle Junior Novice Champion Mary has been riding side saddle since she was seven, but Tally has only done side saddle for the last two years. Their delightful display recreated The Great British Bake Off which highlighted the British love of baking with the WI, the Great British bake off and of course a cook book by Mary Berry.



Two classes were then held:

- In the **ADULT CONCOURS d'ÉLÉGANCE** six riders came forward for this competitive class which was judged by Mr Vincent Seddon. The winner was Miss Sophie Lane from Area 9 riding Conspiracy Theory owned by Mrs Rosamund Lane.



- One rider, Miss Jana Carney came forward for the **JUNIOR CONCOURS d'ÉLÉGANCE**. Jana rode well and deserved the awards she received.



ACT 7: SIDE SADDLE THROUGH THE AGES AND VERSATILITY

Vice-Chairman Nadya Brown put together a fine parade and commentary to demonstrate side saddle riding through the ages and the versatility of horses.

This act took the audience on a journey through the history of side saddle from very early times when ladies were led or seated behind the gentleman on a cushion/or the back of the saddle, not ideal for longer journeys or your best and only dress. This was soon replaced by a planchette, a large cushion chair, made on the tree for a cross saddle but it seated the lady sideways and she was prone to slip off on rutty roads and had to be led. So a foot rest was added, to become the stirrup we use today and ladies began to sit forwards and have more control of the horse.

The story started in the 15th Century when gentlemen were needed to ferry the ladies around the country. As England prospered under the reign of the Tudors the road/tracks became very rutty and difficult to drive a carriage or wagon over safely and so horseback became the most comfortable mode of transport. This posed problems for the ladies, many rode astride, clothing being altered to breast the saddle but side saddle was then considered the correct way to ride.

Helena Pixton rode The Blue Shade dressed in her Elizabethan costume ready to hunt with her hawk hence the gauntlet style gloves and stout boots; her costume was made by her Mum of russet silk, trimmed with seed pearls.

The hat made from velvet was a popular style for riding at the time.

However Elizabeth 1st only rode side saddle when on ceremonial occasions or hunting with her hawk. The saddle had evolved so that the seat was a cushioned horseshoe shape, with a small fixed head and to the right a horn, like a western saddle which she could hold onto if necessary there was no leaping head and it was not very secure for fast riding, which she loved.

Bruce Langley-McKim was dressed in an Elizabethan Gentleman's outfit, depicting Master of the Queens Horse, Robert Dudley Earl of Leicester, an excellent horseman who spent many hours sourcing the fastest and best horses from other parts of the world. Bruce rode his own Irish Draught Stallion Cos Me Is Black by The Crofter. This horse is no stranger to side saddle and has carried Bruce to many successes as well as a number of lady riders. Men were very important, they rode and chose the horses to be ridden aside as not every horse was suitable, comfort played a large part so the gait originally a palfrey type was used and manners of the side saddle horse became vital. Centuries later Bruce's Great Grandfather was groom at a stately home and attended to such duties.



Natalie Whitaker came as Mary Queen of Scots dressed in blue and yellow (with red petticoats) with a boned bodice and vintage horseshoe shaped buttons on the cuffs. Many people think Mary was always dressed in black, but that was something put about after her death to turn her into a martyr. In fact Mary was incredibly fashionable and always dressed to best advantage. On the day she was beheaded she wore red petticoats as a deliberate slight to Queen Elizabeth

Anne Chambers was dressed as Anne of Denmark (1574 – 1619).

Anne of Denmark was born on 12 December 1574 at the castle of Skanderborg on the Jutland Peninsula in Denmark, the second daughter of King Frederick II of Denmark and Sophie of Mecklenburg-Güstrow

The couple were formally married at the Old Bishop's Palace in Oslo on 23 November 1589; the ceremony was conducted in French, so that both parties could understand. She was the Queen Consort to James I and the mother of Charles I.

Anne inherited many of Elizabeth I's gowns but it is unsure if this is one of them, she was independent and had a dynamic significance as a patron of the arts promoting the role of women during the Jacobean age.

Side saddle continued to evolve and in the late 1662 - 1741 a Lady called Celia Feinnes, a travelling lady rode side saddle throughout England to visit grand houses, mines, factories, any engineering projects along the way, writing journals as she went, 1684 - 1703 she did have two ladies travelling with her, her journal was published as a book in 1888 called *Through England on a Side Saddle*.

We jumped forward to the 1800 as it was early then when the leaping head was introduced along with the balance girth it would seem no one person can be attributed to this so we leave names out here.

Jessica Downham wore a reproduction "Market Day" outfit seen in the early 1800 when worn by a Country lady going to market in the Scottish Borders. The green fitted jacket has matching detailed buttons and a checked skirt. The petticoat is seen under the skirt and is lace with red bows. The outfit is finished off with a straw boater with a matching ribbon to compliment the costume.



Stockwoods Smurf (Sam) a 13.1hh Irish cob, who is now 18 years young, has been a driving pony all his life competing at trials and being a pony for The Driving for the Disabled. This will be Sam's second season sideways which he is thoroughly enjoying and bringing a smile to everyone he meets. Sam and Jess shot to TV stardom in September 2014 when they were asked to take part in filming "Escape to the Country" which was a fantastic experience. Her favourite class is the Costume Concours where she gets to dress up and also loves to see all the different costumes from different eras.