

ACT 8: SIDE SADDLE RIDERS OF THE YEAR DISPLAY

With a very interesting and interactive live commentary from Ginny Oakley Pope three riders, all winners of the prestigious Riders of the Year accolade gave a freestyle display.

Liz Rogers rides Fresco Depot

Elizabeth Rogers has made horses her way of life. She started working with racehorses and her affinity with them has never left her. Based at Pittern Hill in Warwickshire, a well known side saddle centre, Liz became the pupil of renowned side saddle trainer Mr Roger Philpot. Liz's first accolade as Side Saddle Rider of the Year came in 1998 and she has now won the title an amazing 6 times. Today Liz rides a new horse to side saddle ex racehorse Fresco Depot. Owned by the Whaley-Cohens and ridden by renowned amateur Sam Whaley - Cohen he was destined to run in the Grand National. Sadly breathing issues put paid to that but not before he had won 7 times. He came to Liz 2 years ago has taken some time to desensitise and learn about his new way of life. He has been out with Liz to small competitions and last week scored a very good score of 80% in a dressage test so Liz is clearly on the case of providing him with a new career.



Claire Lewis

Claire rode Dragonswick Czardas

Claire started riding side-saddle when she was 11 on a wonderful pony Explorer. Her family hired a side-saddle and got a 100-year old habit, and from that moment she was hooked. Claire has had some lovely horses since then, mostly loaned to her, none of whom had ever seen a side saddle before. Claire owes her success to them and to her mother who has always encouraged and supported her. When she started, Claire never dreamed what it would lead to, competing and teaching at home and abroad as well as taking part in some wonderful displays and meeting so many lovely people.

Dragonswick Czardas is a 12 year old Trakehner gelding who Claire has produced since he was a young horse. This combination is very successful in advanced dressage.

Morgan Schive

Morgan rode The Nightwatch Man

Morgan's journey to become 'Side Saddle Rider of the Year' started when she was just 9 years old, which is when she had her first lesson with Claire Lewis.

Since then (2004) Claire Lewis has continued to teach Morgan, helping Morgan to develop her riding skills, whilst proving to be an invaluable inspiration and mentor. Morgan first started competing on a 12.2hh welsh X gypsy cob called Henry Hooper, who has a very cheeky nature and is a real character.

In 2008 Morgan went on to win the Junior Novice Rider of the Year'.

In 2010 Morgan found Smurf (Nightwatch Man) a 15.2hh small hunter who was 5 at the time. Morgan was only 15 and being very petite Smurf was quite a handful for her however in 2011 Morgan won 'Junior Open Ride of the Year' on him.

2012 was Morgan's first year as an adult rider, and she won the 'Adult Intermediate Rider of the Year'. In 2013 they won the 'Open Equitation' making Smurf 'Side Saddle Horse of the Year', where Morgan also made the ride off coming 3rd. In 2014 Morgan made it into the ride off again and at the tender age of 19 became the youngest ever person to be crowned 'Side Saddle Rider of the Year'. Morgan says she couldn't have made it this far without the help and support from her friends and family, especially her unpaid groom 'Mum'!

INTERVAL: A DISPLAY OF OLD SIDE SADDLES AND COSTUMES

During the interval visitors were invited to the SSA Stand where they were able to look at a fine display of old habits and costumes and there were plenty of experts on hand to impart their knowledge.

ACT 9: JUMPING DISPLAY

Amy Bryan- Dowell, Jasmine Carney , Bruce Langley McKim, Emma Brown , Lauren Allin, Chloe Gunn , Katie Yeo and Sharon Thompson all took part in a thrilling jumping display with an excellent commentary and coaching from Chairman of the Side Saddle Association Mrs Janet Senior.



ACT 10: SNOW WHITE AND THE SEVEN DWARFS

This act saw the youngest sidesaddle riders from Area 11 performing a version of the much loved fairy tale: The Story of Snow White.

Mimi aged 7, rode the grey pony, they are played the roles of Bashful and Happy.

Ellie aged 9 rode the small chestnut and played Sneezzy and Doc.

Mary aged 14 and rode Tally the larger of the chestnut ponies, they acted the roles of Grumpy and Sleepy. If you look hard you could see Dopey was getting a lift on Bashful.

At the last minute Claire, mother of Ellie and Mimi had stepped in to play the role of Snow White, Claire rode Ted and she proved to be a perfect nanny to her little dwarfs in this performance to music.

Snow White had been thrown out of home by the wicked Queen and had fled to the forest. There she found a small house that is terribly untidy. She started to clean the room and sings happily with some forest creatures. When the seven dwarfs come home and find their new friend they are all very happy. That is until Snow White goes off on her own and eats a poisoned apple- they find her asleep and are sad- will she wake up? Will she find true love and live happily ever after – you had to be there to find out what happened next!

