

ACT 11: THE YORKSHIRE MIXTURES

Area 19 was represented by Gemma Teed ,Kate Benson, Gemma Clapham, Gill Greenwood , Lisa Lane and Linda Unwin.

Many people have only seen side saddle in costume dramas or historical films and think that, if it still exists, it can only be aristocratic ladies who still ride that way. In fact most side saddle riders today are ordinary people of all ages who save up for their horses, their saddles and habits - and who come to side saddle by many different “roads”.

In our Area 19 they have a dentist, a dancer, an accountant, riding instructors, shop and office workers and retired school teachers; some have ridden side saddle for a long time, but some are much more recent ‘converts’ to this lovely way of riding. So, we saw six of the not very ‘Downton Abbey’ ladies from the ‘Yorkshire Mixture’ who just enjoy riding, watching and chatting side saddle whenever we can get together.

Gemma C on her grey, Just Murphy, was sitting in the line-up at a local show when the lady beside her said, “Your horse would look great under side saddle” - so here she is!

Gill rode her big bay, Storm, the home-bred son of a beloved mare that competed in many disciplines, for many years. Gill was originally taught side saddle in 1974 by Janet Macdonald and Valerie Francis, the founders of the Side Saddle Association, but started again more recently.

Kate rode her bay mare, Titch, who has been successful in many disciplines. Kate dreamt of side saddle when she was a little girl and finally started a couple of years ago when Titch was 21 and Kate was quite a bit older!

Linda on the bigger grey, Conner Cadiz, used to drag her family to watch the Ladies Hunter class at the Great Yorkshire Show every year. She used to go on about side saddle so much that one day her husband called a local side saddle instructor (who turned out to be Janet Senior, our current SSA Chairman) so she could try it. So she finally joined those elegant ladies galloping down the long side of the main ring at the Great Yorkshire Show.



Gemma T was given a side saddle lesson as a Christmas present and was immediately hooked. Her Irish cob went better side saddle than he did astride but he had to retire so Figo, her chestnut Welsh cob, replaced him and also took to it very well.

Lisa rode Pip, a borrowed ex racehorse, for only the second time in the display, as her own horse had to retire. Someone once left a horse and all its’ tack, including a side saddle, with Lisa while she went abroad. Lisa knew nothing about side saddle but was curious, so, when the client returned, she went to watch her side saddle lesson. She asked if she could sit on the saddle to see what it was like and was hooked. She has now been riding and teaching side saddle for many years.

The final two classes of the day were then held which were judged by Mag. Daniela Kabele from Austria. Jana Carney came forward for the JUNIOR COSTUME CONCOURS d’ÉLÉGANCE.



Five competitors came forward for the ADULT COSTUME CONCOURS d’ÉLÉGANCE. The class was won by Amy Bryan-Dowell.



ACT 12: MIRROR IMAGE DISPLAY - THE OPEN EQUITATION TEST

Claire Lewis riding Dragonswick Czardas and Morgan Schive riding Nightwatch Man, both Area 8 Members and both past and present, “Riders of the Year” performed a mirror image of the Open Equitation Test that is used at the National Championships. For those of you who have ridden this test you will be aware that it is not the easiest! After all it is designed to be the first test in finding the new Side Saddle Rider of the Year! Claire and Morgan performed this together which was no mean feat as I am sure you can all imagine!



ACT 13: THE HUNTING SCENE

Emma Brown ,Hazel and Lauren Allin, Chloe Gunn, Amy Bryan- Dowell, Jasmine Carney, Shirley Oultram and Bruce Langley-McKim took part in the hunting scene with commentary by Ginny Oakley Pope and Bruce as Huntsman and a lone “Charlie” making a brave appearance!



At the end of the exciting hunting scene Shirley Oultram announced Wish’s retirement. Wish has been a long standing participator within the Association for more years than she and her owner, Shirley Oultram, would like to remember! During this time Wish has been lent to variety of people from this country and to overseas visitors providing the chance to compete and enjoy the art of side saddle riding. Within this time Wish has won 6 different Championships with different riders. At the International Day Wish retired from competitive work and will continue her days doing something that she and Shirley both love, hunting!

