

## Area 5 SSA Seminar Moreton Morrell

An interactive day looking at how the rider can affect the side saddle and how the side saddle affects the horse and the rider depending on its fitting.

Speakers: Roger Philpot, Dale Atkinson, Fran Penn and Ginny Pope.  
Sadly Janet Senior was too unwell to attend and we thank Dale and Fran for coming in to assist at such short notice.

This, being the only seminar scheduled for this year so far, attracted over 50 people. Expecting originally about 35 people the Area 5 Committee were thrown in to a frenzy and catering ideas had to be totally changed during the week. Having thought of providing homemade soup we decided that without any kitchen facilities heating up so much soup on our Bunsen burners was not going to work! Sainsbury's came to the rescue with some delicious sandwiches!

The day started with coffee and cakes and a warm welcome from Dale Atkinson and Ginny Pope.

The delegates were then split in to two groups.  
One group stayed with Dale in the lecture room where an open discussion on judging took place. This proved to be highly successful and most interesting. Lots of important aspects were brought to the table and mulled over.

The other group went to meet Gavin, the mechanical horse, very capably ridden by Gaye Morgan. Gaye did admit that she was far more nervous to be riding Gavin than a real horse! She need not have worried as she certainly made a grand job of keeping him in control. This session allowed people to look at the saddle with regard to fitting Gaye and how this may affect her overall riding. The sessions with Gavin were conducted by Fran Penn.

The groups then swapped over. It was agreed by all that both of these sessions were of such interest that they could have been longer.

Everyone then made their way to the indoor school where the real horses and their riders were waiting. We are most grateful to Jennie Daniels, Liz Rogers, Kelle King, Jane Bird and Jorja Deacon for being with us for the day and for being so beautifully turned out.



The riders were asked to ride free style around the arena and to perform an individual show. The delegates were asked to judge the saddles only and how comfortable and harmonious they appeared to be for the rider and the horse. This was interesting and there was a clear winner!

Everyone then had a look at the saddles with the riders on board and then dismounted. Discussions took place following everyone being able to have a good look up close and personal!



With lunch served we all reconvened for the afternoon jumping sessions.

Each rider jumped a round and the delegates were encouraged to use the mark sheets provided as the round was conducted. Afterwards feedback from the audience was given to the riders before they jumped their second round. Much discussion took place on the way to improve the rider's rounds. Suffice to say that all of the jockeys did a superb job! It was interesting to note that many people were particularly keen about this session as there are so few opportunities to watch side saddle jumping.



With a few presentations to the riders and speakers the day finished with more coffee and cakes.

Many thanks go to all those that attended, not least to the two overseas visitors I, Berit and Daniella and to the Area 21 Northern Ireland ladies who all travelled such long distances to be with us.

My special thanks go to the riders, the speakers and the amazing Area 5 Committee who made it all happen and despite a few organisational issues prior to the event were smiling all day long!

Ginny Pope