

SSA MEMBER JANE BIRD WINS VETERAN SECTION AT HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY SHOW.

Jane Bird of Area 5 rode her horse Norman Jennings (aka Storm) side saddle in the Veteran Classes at the recent Hertfordshire Show.

Storm came first in his age group and second in the Championship Senior Horse.



Jane and Storm took up side saddle about 6 years ago.

Jane said: "I always choose to ride side saddle if I can, he seems to go better, I am usually the only one in senior horse showing classes riding side saddle so it does catch the Judge's eye. I like to promote side saddle riding whenever I can and always get lovely comments from the public. I am absolutely delighted with the old horse but credit must go to Ginny Oakley pope who has the patience of a saint to get an old horse and old rider to go side saddle ,both being much more comfortable on the hunting field !"

"As for Storm he takes everything in his stride at big shows and is well behaved, he is not easily spooked but can get bored so it is difficult to show him at his best, he looks a completely different horse on the hunting field doing what he loves best".

Storm is 23years old, Jane had him as a very feisty 5 year old and said she spent more time on the floor than on his back! He hunted thirteen seasons with the Grafton and was amazing, taking on the most enormous fences, he has team chased, hunter trialled, been part of a riding club quadrille team, Jane is proud of his 16 years service to RDA which he does three times a week during term time and he taught all Jane's grand children to ride. Jane and Storm Autumn hunted the last season he was out, they turn out every Boxing day side saddle for the Grafton as it is a big PR day for the hunt, the public love it and always want to know how Jane stays on especially in the mad gallop the field do for them, so Jane lifts up her apron and explain her secondary grip!