

PAST SIDE SADDLE RIDERS OF THE YEAR

JANE WILLIAMS (NEE RACKHAM) 1978

Jane took the title of adult Side Saddle Rider of the Year in September 1978 riding Mark Anthony, when the final was held at Stoneleigh during a BHS open day. Janet Macdonald was reserve on Anna Maria with whom she also completed Badminton Horse Trials. Janet is still on the associations' judge and instructor panels. The Association also held a junior Side Saddle Rider of the Year class, which was won by Sue Bland riding Solway Windfall.

Mark Anthony started life as a 15hh working hunter pony winning numerous classes. When Jane became too old to ride him in workers, he stepped up to adult competition with her as a small hack and carried a side saddle with equal aplomb standing runner-up in his first attempt at a HOYS small hack class. He and Jane took part in the first side saddle displays organised by Mrs David Barham in the 70's and 80's and Jane is the first to say that she credits Mrs Barham with teaching her everything she knows about being turned out immaculately.



**Winner of the side saddle class at Windsor Horse Show 1979 Jane Rackham
riding Mark Anthony**

As her father Paul was master of the Suffolk Hunt it was inevitable that Jane also rode to hounds and did so with great panache. This stood Jane in good stead to win the inaugural Langston Side Saddle Working hunter final held at the Greater London Horse Show in 1979 aboard Freckles, with whom producer Allister Hood had contested the lightweight hunter class earlier in the day.

Jane continued to compete both astride and side saddle at numerous shows. In 1989 she got married to Kevin Williams but also found time that year to win the large riding horse class at Horse of The Year Show (HOYS) on Brown Sabre. The following year Jane took a little break from competing and hunting to have her daughter Holly, but stormed back into the winners' enclosure at HOYS in 1997 to land the prestigious ladies' hunter of the year class on Money Mover.



Ladies Hunter Winner in 1997 Money Mover ridden by Jane Rackham

Jane has worked for the family business Rackham Group since 1982 first as a company secretary and now as a director. Whilst she now longer rides competitively, she can often be seen ringside watching a side saddle class and remains a member of the Association.



The memento given to the Riders of the Year

Thank you to Dale Atkinson for compiling this article.