

THE BRITISH SCURRY & TRIALS DRIVING
CHAMPIONSHIP REPORT
Held at the NVEC, Leicester on 27th March 2022.

On a lovely sunny spring morning the indoor series came to a conclusion with all to drive for. The championship event is an added stand-alone event where those who have qualified have another chance to do well in addition to the Grand League points awards. The grand league was as close an event as we'd seen with two exceptional lady drivers on equal points going forward to this last event. Helen Beverley who drives a single pony and Suzanne Dicketts who drives a pair of ponies. As the grand league is given points on where competitors finish in their class the only other aspect that can count is where they have finished if they didn't win in their respective classes and so it was that Suzanne went forward with a second place in her results whereas Helen went forward with a third place in hers!

Sadly Ivor Williams the course designer extraordinaire along with all his family couldn't be there as they had all succumbed to covid so Jeff Davenport had to follow his course plan emailed the day before and with the very able help from Alan Beverley, Leigh Waters and Alan's daughter & son in law, Kate & Dom Dickinson, they followed the plan and built the course and stayed as the arena party.

The championship followed the same format of three drives around the course with the times being added together to find the winners, therefore making it crucial that three consistent drives mattered.

There were a couple of hilarious moments when Suzanne Dicketts knocked over one of the obstacles and unaware, she finished the rest of the course with the letter B and a ball on the back of her carriage and Carole Davenport on the commentary had to ask for their course back please with Suzanne still oblivious to it all!

Maggie Fairburn went one better when she knocked some of the other obstacle down and took some of the obstacle, balls, letter and a cone along with her and couldn't drive a straight line for laughing and the carriage hindered by a cone lodged underneath!

The very small pony class was won by the very exciting spotted miniature Barney driven by Dawn Palmer although the grand league winner was Den Keeler on points for this class with his fabulous chestnut Shetlands, the Braveheart Warriors.

Matt Illston-Barsby ran out the class winner on the day and the grand league winner with the veteran grey ponies Salt & Pepper. Owned by Suzanne Dicketts these two may be veterans and may know the scurry job inside out but boy do they take some driving so they've been so useful in training Matt in his initial foray into indoor driving. On his birthday as well this combination was a popular winner of the small pony pair class.

Suzanne herself has had an interesting indoor season with a formidable opponent in Alan Clarke who sadly couldn't compete at the finals. Sugar & Spice were winners in the end of the large pony pair class and the icing on the cake for Suzanne was they finished in third place overall in the championship but on points, they finished the grand league champions! Those second placings were crucial for Suzanne as Helen Beverley romped home champion on the day with Femme Fatale but on points, the ladies still finished equal but Helen's third spot through the season popped her in reserve grand league position behind Suzanne.

It was the same battle for Suzanne and Helen's grooms, Hannah Illston-Barsby and Jordan Beverley who, thanks to those second and third places through the season, finished with Hannah as champion groom and Jordan reserve. The horse class saw a win for Sioux Gardner and Magic and they did very well to finish in fifth on the day, especially as this was a difficult and twisty championship course.

The 2 wheeled vehicle class, new for 2022, saw the lovely little rescue coloured pony, Del, win for his enthusiastic adopter Allison North, even more special as Allison's son was there to watch his mum and pony do well.

The single ponies present gave some wonderful displays of agility and mention must be made to Dawn Dickens who has done wonders with her pretty palomino Goldilocks and they drove three consistent rounds on the day to finish Reserve Champions to Helen Beverley. Goldilocks is a pony who had always been on a lead rein until Dawn bought her, so their journey together has been a total change of training and equine discipline.

On the day though it was Helen and Femme Fatale who gave a masterclass on obedience, smoothness and agility and they were well deserved champions.

The championship places

Champion. Helen Beverley. Femme Fatale.
Res Champion. Dawn Dickens. Goldilocks.
3rd Suzanne Dicketts. Sugar & Spice.
4th Sammy Fairburn. Buzz.
5th Sioux Gardner. Magic.
6th Rick Bremner. Luscious Lenny.

Grand League Points.

Champion Suzanne Dicketts. Sugar & Spice.
Res Champion. Helen Beverley. Femme Fatale.

Very Small Pony Den Keeler. Braveheart Warriors.
Small Pony Pair Matt Illston Barsby. Salt & Pepper.
Large Pony Pair Suzanne Dicketts. Sugar & Spice.
Single Pony Helen Beverley. Femme Fatale.
Horse Sioux Gardner. Magic.
Groom Hannah Illston Barsby.
2 Wheeled carriage Allison North. Del.

Carole Davenport.