

National Schools Equestrian Association Championships 2015

Breaking down before we got to school to pick up our horse wasn't an auspicious start to our first ever visit to the National Schools Equestrian Championships at Addington Manor Equestrian Centre, near Milton Keynes.

However, demonstrating the superb team spirit that was key to our successes, we were kindly rescued by another Bryanston family, and horse, rider and all of the accompanying paraphernalia were safely transported to the event.

The Championships, held over 3 days, includes Show Jumping, Jumping with Style and Dressage. With over 400 competitors and 40 plus schools, which have qualified at various events across the UK over the previous year, the standard of horse and rider is scarily high.

Bryanston had teams qualify for both Show Jumping and Dressage; we were there for the Show Jumping.

After a 5.30am start on Friday morning with a substantial mix of nerves and excitement, the team of Ollie P, Oli HW, Sophie M and Francesca G were one of the first to ride in the 1m/1.05m Championship Class. A place in the top 8 teams was required to go through to the jump off. Jumping so early meant a 4 hour wait to discover our fate and much to everyone's amazement we went through in 5th place. Team Leader Debbie Follett's advice to the team for the jump off was 'ride to win' and that is exactly what all four did, demonstrating some risky, strategic dare devil turns that they had walked with Debbie in the course walk and that no other schools dared to take! All of this resulted in winning the NSEA Show Jumping Championships of 2015, what an outstanding result!



Soon after the celebrations were over, another team of Ollie P, Julian H, Sophie M and Francesca G tackled the I.10m competition held in the indoor arena where after a particularly fantastic round by Ollie P the team scooped an amazing 2nd place.

I.10M Team: Ollie P, Julian H, Sophie M and Francesca G



Another early start on Saturday saw a team of Oli HW, Elliot F, Francesca G and Lucy W line up for the 90/95cm class. After some outstanding speed riding in the first round in the outdoor arena, they were through to the jump off in 2nd place. An 8 hour wait for the jump off in the pouring rain and a change of venue to the indoor arena proved just a little too much on this occasion and a couple of unfortunate poles resulted in an 8th place – although, 8th out of 44 teams is still a fantastic result that we were all delighted with.

This is not a competition for the faint hearted but with such amazing successes this year we are already looking ahead to next year's Qualifiers so we can be sure to be at Addington 2016 to defend our Championship title! Sadly next year we will not have the expertise of Ollie P and Julian H, currently in their last year here at Bryanston, and so we are looking forward for any new talent to step up to the mark!