

THE ESSEX & SUFFOLK PT TO PT BAILEYS HORSE FEEDS "SIDE SADDLE DASH" 7TH APRIL, 2018



Organised by SSA Area 4 Membership Secretary, **Louise Allen**, and by kind invitation of the **Essex & Suffolk Pt to Pt Committee**, the day arrived and the sun came out for the **East Anglian inaugural Side Saddle Dash**, primarily **raising funds for East Anglian Air Ambulance**.

Seven riders took part and arrived at the appointed time to find Patricia Drake with a table laden with cold drinks, flasks of hot water, tea, coffee and biscuits! Throughout the day further contributions arrived from various vehicles making it a great meeting and chatting point for the enormous "Support Team" who came out to help in so many capacities!

Tricia kept an eye on us all day and ensured we were all in the right place at the right time and amused us all by not just acquiring the help of Katie's boyfriend **Jack** to help, when unexpectedly tasked with the organisation of the Champagne for the Presentations, but also his 2 friends to assist. They performed their roles admirably! Another helper was **Karen Richards** (The National Side Saddle Show Rosette Steward) who assisted at the Presentations. Even Tricia can only juggle so many things at one time!!!!

Led into the Paddock by "Outriders" **Jo Childs** (in her Navy Habit and Silk Hat, riding Tia) and **Polly Baker** (in her Tweed Habit riding Desmond), we were in the Paddock dead on time with an enormous number of spectators. The bell went and it was off to the Start where **Girth Pullers, Coralie Chung, Louise Curtis, Deborah Giles and Beth Jacomb** were waiting for us.

Whilst **Baileys Horse Feeds** sponsored the Dash itself, further contributions were received from **Mr & Mrs George Braithwaite**, who gave the **Champagne** for the Presentations. Mr Braithwaite also presented the Prizes and seemed to enjoy being photographed with (and kissing!) the ladies who had moved miraculously from racing garb into their Navy Habits and Silk Hats or their costumes.

Clare Simper sponsored the **Mementos** and the **Side Saddle Association** donated the **Rosettes** presented to all Riders, Sponsors and those helping.

Topsy Ingleton was in charge of the "Course Walk" and judged and presented beautiful flowers to **Katie Ockendon-Evans** as "**The Most Elegant Participant**".

First home was, **Charlotte Ingleton** (King du Berlais) followed by **Emma Sunnucks** (Barnaby), **Louise Allen** (Swilly Lad), **Clare Simper** (Instingtive), **Fiona House** (Harvey), **Katie Ockendon-Evans** (Iceford Speedy) and **Sinead Capon** (Dexter).

The entire day was tremendous fun and enjoyed by all participants and the public too! The Riders have so far raised nearly **£3,500 for East Anglian Air Ambulance** and nearly **£1,000 for Macmillan and Sue Ryder**, which is a fantastic achievement. Enormous thanks go to everyone for making the Dash possible.

