

THE SOUTHDOWN & ERIDGE SIDE SADDLE DASH **AT GODSTONE, SURREY ON 15 APRIL 2018**

Participants included Area 8 members Jessica Dutton, Lyndsey Bell, Lauren Redstone Corrin Upton, Moira Evans and International show rider Helen Baker.

A really good day started off with a display with Julia Izzard and Morgan Schive both in habit and silk hats together with two junior members Moya Payne in a habit and Phoebe Whiting in a costume. A short demonstration of free style flat work followed with a quick hat change and apron removal that enabled Julia to pop an upright fence in fine style, showing the audience exactly what her legs were doing. Angela Wells on commentary kept the large audience informed with a little about the history of side saddle and how the saddles evolved, explanation of the outfits, side saddle riding and what the Side Saddle Association is all about as well what we are doing in 2018. Tim Pashen in suit and bowler hat and Clare Cameron in traditional navy habit, shirt collar and tie with safety bowler hat were stewards for the display. The demonstration was followed by a parade of the Dash riders in the paddock with Angela on commentary again; Dash riders were escorted down to the start by mounted stewards where Angela, Tim and Clare were there to help with girth checks.



Once under starters orders they were off in fine style with Lyndsey in the lead for most of the way but she just lost it at the finish to Jessica Dutton who won on her mother's Woodward's Spot-on and Helen Bell who came second riding her own Dallaglio. Jessica was part of the Area 8 demonstration team in 2017 going one better this year by winning the Dash following a season of hunting.



Following weeks of wet weather the ground conditions were predicted to be soft with good to soft, by the time the day came the ground had dried out amazingly, helped by a very warm, breezy day on Saturday together will being on high ground and excellent grass cover - perfect, giving all runners a fabulous ride.



The Area 8 static stand was in attendance ably manned by Sue Pashen, Ann Sadler, Di Baker, Geoffrey Worsfold and Ian Smart. Costumes, habits, hats, gloves, saddles and all sorts of side saddle paraphernalia were on display. Members of the public were particularly interested in Ann's interesting historical books which had unusual side saddle photographs inside. The costumes on display were of a high quality and members of the public were amazed at the detail in evidence. The stand attracted a steady flow of people all day, all with different interests in side saddle such as how could they start themselves, what is worn under a costume and do the horses enjoy it? The team gave out details of Area 8 Instructors as well as the Association membership leaflet. Well done to those who brought horses as well as those brought items for the display and the stand. Everyone had a wonderful day and Area 8 is indebted to our members who gave up their Sunday for the benefit of side saddle, in which ever capacity - thank you to you all! Thanks also to the warm and friendly Southdown and Eridge Point to Point team who made us feel so welcome. All side saddle riders were awarded a specialised engraved crystal tumbler as a beautiful memento as well as a rosette sponsored by the National Association and rosettes to all SSA members sponsored by Area 8. We eventually left the course at 7pm after a magical day!!

