

Former Side Saddle Riders of the Year

Eve Pawelska 1983 and reserve 1984

In 1983 29-year-old Eve Julia Pawelska and her beloved Blue Owl won the side saddle rider of the year title at Malvern that year and were reserve the following year. Eve had introduced her intermediate eventer Blue Owl to side saddle so that they had a “summer competition job.” when she joined the Association in 1981. The versatile pair were also part of the Bath & West Riding Club quadrille team, who performed side saddle, and were runners-up at Horse of The Year Show in 1990.

Eve was born on 11th August 1954 to Joan and Mieczyslaw Pawelski, who had emigrated from Poland to settle in Somerset. Eve spent all her life in Somerset and died there on 14th July 1992.

Eve began her riding career as a member of the Blackmore Vale Pony Club, and passed the A test in 1971. As a child she competed at local shows winning many show jumping and gymkhana events, at which musical poles were a speciality. She was also placed in a few ladies’ point to point races. Eve later became a qualified Master Saddler specialising in beautiful bridle-work.

Eve was also a very active committee member of the Bath and West Riding Club, organising many events as well as instructing and representing the club at the highest level. In 1981 riding Blue Owl she was part of all four Bath and West teams which were placed second in the dressage, first in the pair’s dressage, first in the equitation team and eighth in the eventing team. At the 1988 Riding Club Championships they were part of the winning equitation jumping team.

The Junior Side Saddle Rider of the Year in 1983 was Kirsty Watson riding Kingston Blue



Miss E. Pawelska Side Saddle Rider of the Year with Mrs. Skelton, President



The Quadrille team of two Victorian governesses and their pupils: Front - Anthea Derby on Chieftain and Nell Clothier (nee Boyd) on Burma. Back - Jinks Bryer on Kelly and Eve Pawelska riding Hercules.

The quadrille was formed from the 16 rider side saddle display at the Royal Bath & West Show in 1990, in aid of the RDA. The team featured four greys and their riders, who put in a lot of hard work. They qualified at Stoneleigh were second at HOYS in the Riding Club Quadrille finals. 'Good fun and serious teamwork were called for from our volunteer army on the ground,' said Anthea Derby. 'It was at Wembley, the stables were on a car park, and it rained all night so by morning they were flooded. That was exasperating as there was a mark for turnout and we had four greys! Eve created our browbands to match the costumes.'

