



Left – Lucky Miller (chestnut) and Catriona Goulding, with Secretary Sue Wain; Right – Monarch's Prima Donna (bay) and Kerry Homer with Chairman Paul Stringer. Photo courtesy of Fotograffs



2009 BLUE CHIP VETERAN HORSE NATIONAL DRESSAGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 2009 Blue Chip Veteran Horse National Dressage Championship attracted a record number of entries to Solihill Riding Centre, with competitors from all over the UK to compete in what for many would be the highlight of the year.

Simone Bentley and Gillian Rose were the judges and officiated firstly over the busiest section, at Preliminary level, which was won by Suffolk-based Claire Shadbolt and Sir Wims, just ahead of last year's winners, Tammy Ruffles and Sterling, both riders rewarded for their confident tests with fabulous prizes from Blue Chip Feeds.

The Junior Champion also came from this section and from the four extremely able junior riders Rebecca Woodcock with Woodview Aloysius demonstrated flowing paces that belied his 19 years to claim the honours.

In the Novice section Warwickshire rider Kerry Homer and Monarch's Prima Donna performed a harmonious and flowing test to become Novice Champions, with Jennie Henderson and King Solomon hot on their heels.

The Elementary competitors warmed up to the steady tap, tap of rain. The weather did not dampen their spirits however and the 'on form' Kerry Homer and Monarch's Prima Donna produced a superb test to take the Elementary Championship title. They took home two very smart Blue Chip rugs and countless other prizes. The Reserve Championship went to Scottish rider Catriona Goulding with a horse living up to his name, Lucky Miller, who will be wearing his Blue Chip saddle cloth with pride!

The adverse weather conditions and traffic problems were forgotten in what was an exciting climax to the Veteran Horse Dressage Series 2009. All finalists received a beautiful rosette sponsored by Tammy Ruffles and Sandale Equestrian, with our placing rosettes kindly sponsored by Bruce Starke & Co Ltd, Express Equine and Aviform Ltd.

Everyone at Veteran Horse Dressage and all the competitors said a huge 'thank you' to Blue Chip Feeds for generous support of this prestigious national Final and the very generous award of lots of prizes, sashes and rosettes.

Lastly we would like to thank all our members for their support throughout the year, we are a new committee and our still finding our feet so keep your ideas and suggestions coming in, we're always glad of advice! We hope that those of you who joined us this year will continue to support the society and enjoy your veteran horse during their golden years. We hope to see you all again next year – stay tuned for new 2010 dates and venues!