

SEIB BHS Trec Pro-Am Challenge draws crowds at Windsor

Regular Trec riders took on invited celebrity riders in a test of accuracy, agility and horsemanship that drew crowds to the ringside during the South Essex Insurance Brokers (SEIB) British Horse Society (BHS) Trec Pro-Am Challenge at the Royal Windsor Horse Show recently.

Top show jumpers Tim Gredley, Dan Neilsen and Charlotte Platt, renowned trainer, Dickie Waygood and exponent of natural horsemanship, Kelly Marks, tackled an unusual course of obstacles that tested skill and accuracy of pace over a fixed distance. The test involved proceeding quickly through bending poles and under low “branches”, negotiating a wooden bridge and gate, leading the horse through a narrow track and mounting from the off side as well as a small jump that posed no problems. The judges at each obstacle showed the score out of 10 and there was no leniency for any horse that stepped outside of the narrow corridor during the test.

The competition is designed as a showcase for the sport of Trec which has continued to grow in popularity since its introduction in the early 90’s. “Trec is usually held across country and for many its big appeal is the orienteering phase as well as the opportunity it offers to ride through beautiful countryside that riders do not usually get access to. Basically, anyone with a horse can do it”, said Sarah Phillips, Senior Executive of British Riding Clubs and BHS Competitions.

On borrowed, experienced, trec horses, the show jumpers put up a good fight. Captain Max Chenery showed the benefit of military training, putting an excellent round on his own horse having been given an exemption not to ride a borrowed horse as he was still suffering from a broken shoulder following a recent fall in a point to point. Dickie Waygood was in competitive spirit riding Nabaska, having been beaten last year but could only manage third place, pipped by last year’s winner, Kelly Marks, who took second riding Jock. However, experience showed and in the end, the top spot went to successful trec rider, Lucy Thompson, riding Sasha who notched up an excellent top score to earn the valuable £1000 first prize.

“Trec is a fabulous sport that anyone can do. It is great fun for all levels and fits well with our policy of supporting and encouraging grass roots riders. The Pro-Am Challenge is a bit of fun but it also helps to raise awareness of the sport and encourages riders who want a challenge to have a go. It is certainly not as easy as it looks”, says Nicolina MacKenzie, Marketing Manager of South Essex Insurance Brokers.

To find out more about Trec, visit the riding section of the BHS website, www.bhs.org.uk