

## **MEON TROPHIES AWARDED 23 OCTOBER 2014**

### **Novice Challenge Award** - outstanding performance at Novice level – **Sam Evans**

Sam has been working very hard with Tiptop over several years and has been a regular at our training. Tiptop can still be a bit quirky but currently is on cracking form. Sam qualified for the Riding Club BE80 National Championships, riding for Meon. Here she won her section and stayed on her excellent low dressage score - an incredible achievement in a very competitive national championship competition.

### **Hawthorn Achievement** – outstanding performance at Intermediate Level – not awarded 2014

### **Apollo Award** – outstanding performance at Open Level – **Chrissy Hughes**

Chrissy and Harry were individually 4<sup>th</sup> at the Area Horse Trials and also put in a strong performance at the Blenheim Eventers' Challenge – proving that age does not seem to have caught up yet with Harry who has been a consistent Meon team horse for quite a few years. Chrissy also won her 1 metre class at the very tough and competitive 2-day event at Offchurch this year – not a riding club event we know, but still, an extremely credible win for this great pair.

**McCarthy Salver** – This is an award that recognises a member who has made the biggest improvement over the year, and is designed to recognise those who may not compete in our teams or other competitions, but still work very hard in the background.

The award this year has been toughly contested. There were four nominations – Daniel Searle, Clare Cornett, Laura Kannangara and **Georgina Davidge**.

**Daniel** has had a very good year, predominantly with his horse Rebellion – he took part in the area horse trials team at 90cm level and walked the course with a calm air of disregard for the meaty XC jumps he faced!! We do think he still has his best to offer and just know one day he will be sweeping up our other awards.

**Clare** has really impressed our XC trainer Georgina Marks, and over the season she has guided her horse from barely jumping anything, to jumping everything.

**Laura** and her horse Eric have burst onto the scene this year – she guided herself and Eric through our first riding club team, taking part, and coming a team 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 80cm horse trials team. She is also one of the smiliest and chirpiest (after our own Pippa of course) members we have!!

**Finally, Georgina** who has worked very hard to get Yaz back on the road. She faced her own nerves and demons to take part in our own ODE at Fair Oak in May – I don't think we will ever forget the raucous cheers we all breathed as she eventually popped over the last XC fence that day. She went on to take part in the club's residential camp in September,

After much deliberation, we decided to award the trophy to Georgina Davidge, who is unfortunately working away on a boat supporting an oil rig on the north sea so cannot attend to collect her award in person. For Daniel, Clare and Laura we would like to award to each of them a special runners up trophy to commemorate and recognise their hard work.

### **Volunteer's Award – Katie Burton**

We would have been lost without Katie's school last winter when Lower Peake was a total washout. Katie instantly did everything she could to help us by allowing us to use her lovely arena. We also went there for our members' dressage show and Katie has always offered help when needed, including the area horse trials.

**Special Volunteering Tabard for Kath Havering – this has been especially made for our second star helper!**

### **Arc en Spirit Award** – outstanding performance in Dressage – **Sarah Pook**

Sarah's calm and quiet way of riding and consistent training has certainly paid off this year. Whichever of her 2 horses she is partnering you can rely on Sarah to be a solid team member. At the Area Combined Training she was second on Jane McGibbon's Tiptoe and was 9<sup>th</sup> with Top Pride in a novice

test. At the Dressage to Music she and Jane were third in the Freestyle, this time she rode Balfours Bay. In the Senior Elementary at the Dressage to Music she was 1<sup>st</sup>, again on Balfours Bay but could not go to the Championships in the end as Balfours Bay was not quite himself. At the Area Dressage she won her arena on Top Pride and qualified for the Championships and she came 5<sup>th</sup> in the Senior Pairs with Jane. A pretty impressive track record!

We would also like to mention the performance of Pippa Griffin and her soul-mate horse Tolkien's Trilogy who danced their way to the BRC Dressage to Music National Championships and secured 3<sup>rd</sup> placed on a 70% plus score. A truly memorable result for all concerned. Pippa won the dressage trophy last year.

**Simply Seamus Award** - outstanding performance in Show Jumping – **Elsbeth Jeffery**

Elsbeth has really been doing her homework on Vinny and we have watched her progress from about 2'9 to really competently jumping well over a metre. They are a lovely combination to watch and we can be really proud to see them out there competing for Meon. Sadly we did not field teams at the Area Show Jumping but on all other occasions their show jumping has been superb. They were 3<sup>rd</sup> with zero show jumping penalties at the Area Combined Training, 1<sup>st</sup> individually and clear show jumping at the Area Horse Trials and also represented the club at the BRC Novice Indoor Show Jumping Championships at Hartpury this year. We all think that clearly there is plenty more to come.

**Gem Cross Country Cup** – outstanding performance in Cross Country – **Nicki Whiddett**

Nicki and Woodie are a great combination and never seem to fail in putting in a great cross country round. At the Area Horse Trials they were 2<sup>nd</sup> with nothing to add for their XC round. They were first in their section at our own one day event. . Nicki has picked up placings across the whole season at other non-riding club one day events, and has been the one to watch and try and beat by other MRC committee members (e.g. Laura and Bodger!!)

**Rose Seagrave Memorial Trophy** – for improvement in Dressage during the year – **Laura Bleecker**

Laura has been working incredibly hard with Bodger over the last year. Bodger is a cob who knows what he wants and that is to jump and gallop, over the last year Laura has literally changed the shape and balance of him into a horse that is now much lighter and easier to manoeuvre around a dressage arena, it has been no mean feat on Laura's part and has taken tact, diplomacy and patience.

**Veteran's Cup** – for a club member over the age of 50 who has been consistent throughout the year - **Linda Budge**

Linda and Frank are amazing. They had done little, beyond coming to training regularly, for years. But were upping their game in various disciplines. They put in a stunning performance at the Area Horse Trials and it was clear Linda had lost none of her competitive urge which she must have had when much younger. She and Frank really trust each other and they came 2<sup>nd</sup> in their section, finishing on their dressage score.