

Sunshine Tour 2010



Show & News Report

Sunshine Tour – What Sunshine??

Sunshine Tour qualifier shows are now in full swing, but many Sunshine Tour venues suffered a slightly inauspicious start to their show seasons this year. A number of early show dates were cancelled because of dreadful weather conditions, including Sunshine Tour HQ's opening show jumping day, much to the frustration of organisers who were keen to get going with the exciting new 2010 Sunshine Tour season. However they were not alone, even the European Sunshine Tours, held annually in Spain and Portugal during February and March suffered loss of competition days because of storms, high winds and driving rain!

Sunshine Tour Championships 2010

Sunshine Tour HQ is now buzzing with activity as competitions are well and truly underway and competitors register their qualification on a daily basis. The organisers are busy finalising this year's sponsors, prizes and details of the championship classes. Further expansion of the championships had led to more showing classes being added and dressage and show jumping also enjoying extra sub-divisions for amateur and novice competitors. In addition, 3 exciting new open classes have been added: Dressage to Music, Show Jumping Accumulator and Horse and Hound fun jumping class.

Details of the prize fund available this year should be announced soon and Rebecca Stansfield, founder of the Sunshine Tour, announced that they were trying to add even more prizes to the fund from last year which included a brand new Kent & Master saddle, fitted by Master Saddler Helen Dart, a year's supply of Saracen horse feed with full nutritional support, £500 of products from Surrey Equestrian, £400 from Nettex, a free holiday in Menorca, dozens of Localrider embroidered rugs, Sunshine Tour embroidered saddle cloths, sashes, rosettes and trophies. With new sponsorship already secured, there's a lot to look forward to!

The Sunshine Tour website is about to undergo an update, so full championship details will be released soon. In the meantime see www.sunshinetour.co.uk for forthcoming Sunshine Tour qualifier dates in your area (covering Surrey, Kent, Sussex, Hampshire, Middlesex, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, London, Isle of Wight, Hertfordshire, Essex).

Sparsholt College started Sunshine Tour qualifiers in January with dressage and followed up in February with unaffiliated and junior show jumping and another dressage show. Junior show jumpers were able to enjoy classes from 1' upwards, and Edward Lacey, son of organiser Ali Lacey started the 19 February show with a win in the Lead Rein class. He then handed shared pony, Taffy over to his sister Georgia who continued the family good fortune and took 2nd places in the Unled 1' class and the 1'6". Gemma Raymond won the 1'6" riding Pini and top honours in the 2' went to Rachel Cox on Laddie. Tommy Tomato ridden by Madeleine Mead took the 2'3" red rosette and Fray Pinkney won the top class of the day, the 2'6"/2'9".



Winners of class 1 at Sparsholt College

Pachesham Equestrian Centre started their 2010 Sunshine Tour season with dressage on 21 February. A large field of competitors enjoyed the 50x70m rubber topped arena and contested 6 classes ranging from Walk & Trot to Elementary. First award of the day went to enthusiastic competitor, Wing Bo Chan riding Diamond Riding Centre's RDA horse, Fahrenheit II. Highest percentage of the day went to the winner of the Prelim 15, Alison Platt riding Braveheart III with 68.7%, closely followed by the winner of the Prelim 19, C Pedder riding Arun who earned 68.2%. Top honours went to Amy Fitzgerald riding Dolly Mixture who won both the Novice 35 and Elementary 43.

Pachesham also managed to stage the first of their jumping qualifiers on 7 March. Local competitor Jess Middleton took the first class of the day, the 70cm on Mini Meg closely followed by Georgina Johnson on Lucky Escape. Georgina went on to improve on her form and win the 75cm class. Saskia Davies made a clean sweep of the last 2 classes of the day, with fast and careful Darby O'Gill, in both classes just pipping Jan Hill on home bred Hatchford Viressa into 2nd place.

Just So Dressage managed to stage their February dressage day despite heavy showers. The Prelim 13 class was judged by Chrysta Sparks. This class had good entries and it was eventually won by junior rider Tia Ratty riding Queensdale Campari with a very good score of 77.1%. Regular Just-So competitors Victoria Perry riding Mente G and Laura Cherry riding Shannon Greystone took 2nd and 3rd places both of whom scored over 70%.

Fiona Carlin judged both the Novice classes and the eventual winner of Novice 24 was Sue Duff riding Roo with 66.2%. Victoria Jackson riding Charlie and Sarah Hetherington riding Jigsaw came 2nd and 3rd respectively with 60%, only being split by their collective marks.

Victoria Jackson went on to win Novice 27 with a healthy 67.5%, with Anna Jackson coming 2nd riding her homebred veteran Caspar. 3rd place went to Sarah Hetherington on Jigsaw who was just 1 mark behind Anna.

