

TREC Across the region



TREC SOUTHWEST's winter season finished with a bang at Pontispool on Easter Monday. The sun shone and the wind dropped leaving perfect conditions for judges and riders alike.

Pontispool's large outdoor arena incorporating banks, ditches and water enabled the course builder to create a challenging course helping horses and riders make the transition from the indoor winter season to the upcoming summer events. The Courses were described by one rider as "Definitely challenging but not in an impossible way!"

The Open started the day and proved that things weren't going to be easy. Experienced TREC horses and riders found that their scores were a little, or sometimes a lot, lower than they had hoped for! Jenny Plastow and Trinny who have been in top form all season won again from Vanessa Warren and Flash Shadow. Hilary Barnard and her horse Harvey took third spot before heading off to Holland for the first international of the season the following weekend.

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Vanessa and Flash Shadow won the Intermediate ahead of Jacqui Pyle and Nutty Nutkin, who have come on in leaps and bounds over the winter. Kathy Whitehead and Misti were third.

The Handicap class once again proved the tightest class of the day with Julie Brand and Smilie winning from Vanessa Warren and Flash Shadow and Jenny Plastow and Trinny. There was less than one mark separating these three horses.

The pairs class saw Jenny and Trinny teaming up with Yolande Ifold and Melody Boy stealing the win just ahead of Julie Brand (Smilie) and Faith Anderson with Freyja. Willa Muir (Bluebell) and Andrea White (Gunner Bee) were in third.

A superb round by Jacqui Pyle and Nutty Nutkin won the open "Nutty has been second all season, including in his first ODE, we were beginning to think he would never win" said Jacqui. Yolande Ifold (Melody Boy) took second, just half a point ahead of Faith Anderson and Freyja. Last time out Faith had beaten Yolande by just half a point!

The final ridden class of the day, the Novice Rider was won by Karen Butt and her American Curly Coated horse, Elle. Willa Muir and Bluebell were just two points behind for second and Jenny McCann and Snowdrop took third. The judges congratulated all the Novice Riders in the class as this was obviously out of the comfort zone of some, but they all completed with huge smiles and a great sense of achievement even if they didn't go home with a rosette.

The In Hand class also proved popular with Nutty Nutkin and Jacqui Pyle winning again, from Tracey Wareing and See More Fun, Kate Morton and Bracken, First timer Samantha Jenner was next with Carissa Eason, Debbie Percy and Peta Jane Field filling the minor placings.

Fiona Crawford did an amazing job behind the lens of her camera and was in the arena from before 9 am until nearly 6 pm to capture all those magic moments – thanks Fiona.

TREC SOUTHWEST's first outdoor event of the season was the following weekend – a Have a Go day at

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Bicton College. The event attracted newcomers and more experienced riders alike. Riders had a couple of practice rounds over the obstacles and the second time tried to beat their score and time from the first round. There was then the option for riders to take themselves out onto Woodbury Common for a practice orienteering ride – made more "interesting" by two mountain bike events on in the area, which the route avoided, and also a huge fire on the common in the afternoon – definitely not planned for!

TREC SOUTHWEST have their first full summer TREC Competition on June 9th/10th at Poltimore House, Exeter. If you would like to know more about this event or TREC in general please visit www.trecgb.com or www.trecsouthwest.co.uk.

Or find us on Facebook.

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Pictured are:

1 Jennifer Plastow

2 Karen Butt

3 Jacqui Pyle

4 Vanessa Warren

5 Andrea White

6 Kate Morton

7 Yolande Ifold

8 PetaJane Field

Images by

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