



Report by Julie Brand

June 24th/25th saw the regions TREC riders head to Bryn Llyweilyn Farm near Llanidwr, just north of Carmarthen for the Equisaftey Welsh TREC Championships. The heatwave that had been with us all the preceding week had evaporated and we arrived to a very damp and grey Welsh day.

As Saturday morning dawned the rain had stopped, the clouds had lifted (a bit) and it was possible to glimpse the stunning surroundings. Although the weather was dry all day the occasional low visibility did make for extra challenges and nearly resulted in the organisers cutting short the orienteering phase.

The orienteering route took all levels over extremely open and featureless hillsides that competitors had to be constantly using their compass to check they were headed in the correct direction. Several "checkpoints", like mini checkpoints used to check the accuracy of the riders' navigation, meant that www.southernhorsemagazine.co.uk

if riders were not accurate they lost valuable points.

Once off the open hill riders were confronted by a mass of forest, which offered its own set of challenges. The technicality of the orienteering and the leading terrain left riders in no doubt that this was a true championship course. A couple of level 3 riders had to retire on course due to lost shoes, an another made it home on a hoof boot but the level 2 classes suffered nearly 40% retiring or being forced to retire on course.

One level 2 pair, at only their second event, managed to get themselves so disorientated that they rode off the map (that they had been given. Poor mobile phone signal meant that they were unable to contact the organisers until almost 8pm ... when a horse box was dispatched to rescue them and return them to the venue ... leaving them just a few minutes of daylight to enjoy the BBQ with the other riders.

On Sunday morning, the rain was back. The scores from Saturday's efforts

proved it had been a tough day with a lot of minus scores but in true TREC fashion judges and volunteers wrapped themselves up well for a wet day and the riders went out to the PTV course in full waterproofs ... but returned with huge grins!

The MA, following in the mode of a lot this year was testing: a slight uphill curve, weaving between some fallen trees, before a sharp turn down a slight incline. To score well the horses had to be obedient and balanced. Only the level 4 horses managed to score over 40 points (out of 60).

The PTV course also offered a lot of challenges making the most of the old turf fields, hills, banks and hedges. The course rode really well, yet again proved no push over giving a wide range scores.

The small contingent of Wessex and TREC SOUTHWEST riders seemed to revel in the challenging conditions.

- Level 2 Individual
 1st - Katherine Lougher (Wessex)
 2nd - Jacqui Pyle (TSW)
 3rd - Jane McGregor
 5th - Jenny Plastow (TSW)
- Level 2 Pairs
 1st - Pauline Crossland and Theresa Nater
 2nd - Leif Beryon and Ian Macalinden
 3rd - Cathy Holt and Amanda Aldridge
- Level 3 Individual
 1st - Hilary Barnard (TSW)
 2nd - Bridget Stein
 3rd - Vanessa Warren (TSW)
 5th - Kathy Whitehead (TSW)
- Level 3 Pairs
 1st - Kathy Wilding and Jacqui Kedward
 2nd - Julie Brand and Faith Anderson (TSW)

- 3rd - Sheila and Dave Rogerson
- Level 4 Individual
 1st Sue Lee
 2nd Jackie Bennett
 3rd Liz Davison

August sees the British leg of the European Cup come to the stunning Chilham Castle in Kent and the following weekend the Equisaftey Level 1 championships take place in Northamptonshire. For more details on how to get involved in TREC please go to www.trecgb.com or www.trecsouthwest.com

Pictured are

- 1 Julie Brand and Smilie...one half of the second place level 3 pairs
- 2 Vanessa Warren and Shadow - third in the Level 3 Individual class at the Welsh Champs



TREC SOUTHWEST AUTUMN / WINTER DATES



- 3.9.17 - Have A Go Day, Bovey Tracey, Devon
- 23/24.9.17 - Faith's TREC in aid of Young Riders and Cancer Research, Haytor, Devon
- 7.10.17 - Orienteering Ride, Beilstone, Devon
- 8.10.17 - Winter Series Competition, The Grange, Okehampton, Devon
- 22.10.17 - Winter Series Competition & Training, Knighton House, Blandford Forum, Dorset
- 5.11.17 - Indoor Training, Conquest Centre, Taunton, Somerset
- 19.11.17 - Winter Series Competition, Conquest Centre, Taunton, Somerset
- 10.12.17 - Xmas Fun, Glenda Spooner Farm, Somerset
- 14.1.18 - Winter Series Competition & Training - Half Moon Stud, Shaftesbury, Dorset
- 28.1.18 - Winter Series Competition & Training - Duchy College, Stoke Climsland, Cornwall
- 18.2.18 - Winter Series Competition & Training - Mare and Foal Sanctuary, Tolnes, Devon
- 10.3.18 - Indoor Training - Bickton College, East Budleigh, Devon
- 11.3.18 - Winter Series Competition - Bickton College, East Budleigh, Devon

All events suitable for newcomers of those with more experience - come and have some fun this winter.
 For More information www.trecsouthwest.com - or find us on Facebook.
 Email: trecciemad@yahoo.co.uk