



PARKLANDS

INFORMATION

Shetland Pony Show Group



Hertfordshire County Show 2010

Shetland classes

With any show taking place on a Sunday it is important for the Saturday to have reasonable weather in which to bath the ponies. Not so the case this Saturday which saw a cold wind blowing and fairly substantial amounts of water falling from the sky for most of the day. This years extended winter weather has for most ponies held back their summer coat and general condition not allowing them to be presented at their best. Sunday (Shetland show day) was dry however with sunshine and a wind that took off a good many hats in the show ring, including Miss C. Seipp (Devon) our S.P.S.B. Society judge.

Again entry fees and fuel costs have surely played a considerable part in keeping entry numbers down and the four classes, Standard and Miniature, split into Youngstock and over 4yrs. with the respective numbers of 7 (9 catalogued), 5 all forward, 6 (8 catalogued) and 5 all forward, one could not exactly claim what is normally strong support from Shetland enthusiasts. When you consider a number of the entrants had taken more than one pony you have an idea of how many Shetland owners were really there!

The *Standard 4yrs and over* was a win for Gill Needham from Melton Mowbray in Leicestershire with her black filly **Drynowl Verity Plum**. Second went to Emma Payne's chestnut filly **Abbotsbury Saffron** shown on this occasion by dad, Roger, who never appears to lose his enthusiasm for showing Shetland ponies.

In the *Miniature class 4yrs and over* local competitor Mrs J. Walpole took top honours with **Liscombepark Pluto** and **Rivershill Juniper** owned by Miss A. Dudley brought in second. Third in this class was Christine Boyle's Island bred mare Gott Vipal making a return to the show ring after two unsuccessful attempts to breed. On their last visit to this venue together the little black & white mare took the reserve championship, so with a little more time things look promising.

Standard youngstock (3 yrs & under) saw Emma Payne take the top spot with a chestnut again, this time with her very successful 3yr. old filly **Dryfesdale Damson**. Another 3yr. old filly **Brewards Pixie** owned by Mr & Mrs L Gregory being brought in second.

The *Miniature youngstock (3yrs & under)* went to the piebald gelding **Somahouse Pip Squeek** again another regular pony around the shows with a very good strike rate. He was shown by grandma Sandra Cross on behalf of her daughter Sarah who has recently added to her own family. A keep fit program is to be initiated as there was a fear one of us may have had to give the kiss of life as it was very obvious Sandra had a fitness problem after a couple of laps of the ring. We had the air ambulance on stand by for the championship! I am joking and their efforts were later rewarded with the Society rosette for Best Miniature in show.

Gill Needham in this class added a second place success to her day with her filly **Highedge Myrtle**.

For the first time in a long while we were treated to a full representation of 1st & 2nd placed ponies competing in the *Show Championship*, eight from the four Shetland classes. It has become quite common place for some of those awarded second to not take part in the final line up as again it is perhaps the 'norm' for the judge to choose his/her show champion from only the first places.

As if to prove this very point the *Shetland Pony Stud Book Championship* went to the two 1st in class standard ponies with **Dryknowl Verity Plum** taking top honours and **Dryfesdale Damson** the reserve champion. Well done to them and no argument with the judge's choice.

Now as a 'rider' the significance of this observation totally eludes me but both championship ponies bred at two different studs miles apart had names both starting with 'Dry' and both ending with a 'fruit,' very novel!

Report from Ian Boyle