80cm Team at National Riding Club Eventing Championships

Well what an amazing few days the 80 team had at the British Riding Clubs NAF 5* National Horse Trials Championships at Swalcliffe. All four team members plus horses, and grooms travelled up to the venue on Thursday and after settling the horses in their temporary stables we walked the cross country and show jumping courses ready for the next day. The courses were presented beautifully, as they always are at the championships and although challenging and quite hilly we all felt it should ride very well.
Friday morning and competition day arrives and it was HOT! All four horses completed good dressage tests followed by all jumping fantastic clear rounds which put everyone in great positions leading into the cross country phase. Penny Towers with Bally Owen was first on the course and went clear just gaining some time penalties. Milli Carreras (who stepped in last minute due to our original riders horse going lame) on Flickering Flame followed; stating they were the 'biggest fences her horse had seen!' She went clear, also gaining some time penalties and by the sounds of it Flame wanted a cool down and rest in the water jump! Rebecca Sheen was third to go and produced a fab clear round with some time pens on her mums lovely horse, O' Riley. Lucy Twiss was last to ride on Glencarrig Ricardo and the pressure was on to go clear as they were lying in third place individually after the show jumping. A clear round just outside the optimum time was just what they needed!
All that hard work over the past few months paid off and the team finished in 6th place (3rd place with all four scores to count) with Lucy and Glencarrig Ricardo finishing in individual 5th place. A huge thank you to New Forest Riding Club and all our grooms for the brilliant help and support – we really couldn't do it without you!







