90cm Team at National Riding Club Eventing Championships

Well what a weekend! After all the riders in the team put in a serious effort at the Areas I think we were all a little apprehensive that we really might have a good shot at getting somewhere at the Championships, the team consisted of Kate Ingram – Hollyhatch Highflyer, Kate Brown – Damson Bay Buttons, Katie Cassidy – Longfield Jolie Peche (owned by Penny Rendle) and Kerry 'Nutter' Tyrell – HiMoons Angel.

All put in a sterling effort in the dressage phase Kate I on 30.4, Kate B on 28, Kerry on 25.9 and Katie C on 37, everyone then went on and jumped a clear round in the Show Jumping phase so things were looking good from the off (no pressure!) After a scout of the score boards we were in fact sitting top spot as a team overnight with Kate I, Kate B and Kerry also in pole position in each of their arenas! That was a total of just 84.3. Stuff just got a bit serious, so off to walk the XC course!

The XC is extremely undulating at Swalcliffe so we were all conscious of making sure we were up on time so we didn't gain penalties towards the end of the course which had the slower section. The first real question was 4 and 5 two big roll top/brushes on a right hand 90-degree angle then down a steep track to the first water complex. This was the second decision to make straight through and down the drop for part b) or round the rails and run in to the water. Three of us went the slightly long way agreeing you were better set up for the skinny brush on exit at part c) Nutter obviously went the short way down the drop! Either way we were all clear up to this point!

Katie Cassidy unfortunately then had an unexpected stop at the next fence a large hedge but she then kicked on massively and finished with only 5 extra time penalties, this is definitely what got us the best of 4 score in the end!

A couple more combinations including one with a ditch element and we were then on the way back up the last hill towards the 2nd water complex. A hanging log onto dry ground a few paces then through the water for part b) and jump 16 another log only a short distance out the other side. The final real test was jumping a double rail on an angle to a skinny brush something to make you think when you and your horse are potentially tiring but again it posed no problems for the team and then onto the final fence 18 and home!

Kate B was the last to go and knowing we had x2 double clears with low dressage the pressure was on not only for the team but because I was also sitting No#2 overall overnight! So after completing the course clear I looked down at the watch which read 4:49 so inside the time! We had done it!! After throwing a few buckets of water over the horses and untacking we went to go and check out what the score board now read….

… New Forest 1st overall .. New Forest 1st score of 4… Kate Ingram 1st in Arena 2,Kerry Nutter Tyrell 1st in Arena 3 and Kate Brown 1st in Arena 4 then the real shock I had taken the lead after XC to be overall winner of the 90 section!! We absolutely cleaned up and were then interviewed by Horse and Hound and Rider magazine, we promise to try and not let the fame go to our heads! I think we are all on cloud nine but I was really pleased for Button getting a big win! He so deserves it, he tries so hard for me!

What an absolutely amazing weekend! Could not be more chuffed with the effort put in by everyone concerned and a massive thanks to everyone who organises, helps and takes part.


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