

British Riding Clubs NAF Senior National Championships – September 2016

Championships – Lincoln

Arena 6 – 2nd as Individual in the Riders Test – Sarah Morgan – Small Fortune – Naphill Riding Club

The day dawned bright and clear, or no it poured with rain all Friday night and continued throughout Saturday. But, never mind, we were all at Lincoln, Tim and I as the proud owner/breeders of Small Fortune (Dibbley), Sarah Morgan (his rider) and Lorraine (her mother, chief groom and star mane plaiter).

It was something of a miracle that Sarah was there at all, less than two weeks before she was rushed to The John Radcliffe with severe abdominal pain caused by a kidney stone. Three days of intravenous antibiotics and morphine enabled her to return home but five days before the competition she was back for further treatment. Many of us may have decided it was all too much, but she was determined to compete – and how !! The rider test was hotly contested in the pouring rain and she finished on a 79% score. To everyone's delight she was second of the 20 competitors in the class, so back into soaking breeches and jacket and across to the showground for the presentation.

Splendid rosettes, a sash and goody bag from NAF the sponsors put the seal on a soaking weekend. Dibbley, of course, took it all in his stride having successfully competed there several times both for Naphill and previously for ISIS Dressage Group.

For Sarah it was back to Oxford and three small children and, no doubt, their relieved father and more hospital treatment. For us on Sunday a visit to Lincoln Cathedral. The weather that Sunday ? Glorious sunshine.

Jackie Edwards