

OSB Pony Club Polo

2009 Handley Cross Division Team

Manager. Chris Eaton

1. Alice Walsh
2. Terence Lent
3. Harry Hickmet
4. Emily Collins

The team played friendly matches with other Pony Clubs during the early summer, having practiced at Sussex Polo grounds, Rowfant, travelling to Hurtwood in Surrey, Epsom, Cambridge, Knepp Castle. On good form they were placed into division one and played other teams from across the country including the Avon Vale, New Forest, Beaufort, North Cotswold, Bedale and the Cheshire. Matches at Cirencester, Kirtlington and Tidworth decided who would qualify for the Pony Club Championships at Cowdray, a three day tournament held at the beginning of August.

After two days of play at Cowdray the OSB played the Cottesmore in the final on day 3. The match was played over two six and half minute chukkas. The OSB went down one nil after an unlucky penalty, having peppered the Cottesmore goalmouth for 90% of the first chukka.

The second chukka was to be played after the annual parade where more than two hundred ponies in full turnout present themselves to a grand stand of family and officials. 2009 was a very special year as the 50th anniversary of Pony Club Polo. Adrian Sage the Huntsman of the Chidingfold, Leconfield and Cowdray Hunt paraded 25 couple of hounds to mark the occasion.

At the parade there is only one presentation. This special award is made every year to an outstanding all round pony who confidently plays polo through the summer in the traditional way after hunting has finished. The Jambo trophy was awarded to Olly, ridden by Emily Collins, a pony handed down by her brother Lloyd who schooled it from an untamed beast.

Emily received the trophy and had the great honour of leading the parade off alongside the Huntsman and hounds.

The second and final chukka was then played in front of the grandstand, the OSB team drew level with a goal to even the score at one all, so a decider was needed. In P.C polo a 'run down' takes place where each team race each other taking the ball the entire length of the pitch, the players in a column, taking over from each other should the hitter over run the ball. The OSB won it with Terence Lent taking the ball the whole way.

At the grand presentation in the afternoon the OSB team were awarded the National Championship Trophy for the Handley Cross division.

More information on how to get involved and learn see -- www.osbpolo.co.uk