



PRESS RELEASE
15th September 2008 - Draft

RACEHORSE TO RIDING HORSE QUALIFIER AT BURGHLEY

The final South Essex Insurance Brokers' Racehorse to Riding Horse qualifier was held at Burghley Horse Trials on 7th September. The atmosphere combined with the magnificent backdrop of Burghley House provided an ideal setting and 20 ex-racehorses came forward despite the difficult going on the final day of this very wet Burghley Horse Trials. The horses coped amazingly well with the deep, muddy ground.

South Essex Insurance Brokers, a leading specialist equestrian insurer, instigated this competition to support the retraining of racehorses and to provide a platform to show how a correctly re-schooled racehorse can become a top class show horse. The SEIB Racehorse to Riding Horse Show Championship has become hugely popular and the competition, supported by the charity, Retraining of Racehorses (RoR), is open to thoroughbred ex-racehorses only and, although they need not have raced, they must have been in training. The class may include hack, riding horse or hunter types and the standard is high, with the best of type being judged the winner. Richard Ramsay was the conformation judge and David Bartram was the ride judge. "Despite the weather, I found the day at Burghley judging this class, extremely enjoyable. The class was very well supported and the quality of the ex racehorses was superb at this venue", said Richard.

Fourteen year old bay gelding, Fergal, owned by Peter Richmond and ridden by daughter, Lizzie, won this class in fine style. He is no stranger to the limelight having been a HOYS finalist for the past 2 years. Fergal was in training with Peter in 2003 and 2004, never actually getting to the racecourse, but since his change of career he has proved himself very adaptable. As well as hunting regularly, Fergal is frequently involved in filming for the TV series, Emmerdale, and is a firm favourite with Purdy, actress Georgia Slowe. The Richmonds have been very successful in producing thoroughbred horses for the showing.

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The Old Nursery Office, Rock Road, Washington, West Sussex, RH20 3BH
Tel: 01903 892060 Fax: 01903 891637 Email: info@rachaeholdsworth.co.uk

Second in this class was Emma Boardman's 4 year old ex racehorse, Bidders Itch. He was trained by Alan Berry and ran 7 times, his last outing being at Ripon last October. Since buying him, Emma has been trying to put condition on him and Burghley was their first outing. "I bought Bidders Itch as a show hack and am aiming to compete at HOYS with him in the Small Hack Class", says Emma. "He has such a lovely nature and has a very good brain although he finds travelling in the lorry quite a nerve-wracking experience", she continues. Emma produces ponies and apart from the Racehorse to Riding Horse Championship at HOYS, she also has a Welsh Section C and an Exmoor qualified in the Mountain and Moorland classes.

"Thousands of horses come out of training each year, and this class illustrates how, with time and patience, these horses can be re-schooled to compete successfully in other spheres", says SEIB Marketing Manager, Nicolina Mackenzie, who has been instrumental in getting the competition off the ground. "Our Racehorse to Riding Horse classes have attracted a huge number of entries this year and I am delighted that the final qualifier was held in the glorious setting of Burghley House".

For more information on the Racehorse to Riding Horse Show Championship or Performance Championship, visit www.racehorse2ridinghorse.co.uk or call 01708 850032.

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For more press information, please contact Rachael Holdsworth on 01903 892060 or email info@rachaelholdsworth.co.uk

Editor's Note:

All 14 qualified ex-racehorses will go forward to compete in the Racehorse to Riding Horse Championship at HOYS on Thursday 9th September 2008 at the NEC, Birmingham.