



Knabstruppers at British Dressage Regional Championships

It is lovely to be able to report that once again Knabstruppers have been out competing successfully in the BD Regional Championships.

Claire Knowles and the young Knabstrupper gelding Rughavens Sheik were placed 4th in the Southern Equissage Elementary Freestyle Regional Championships and with less than 2% separating the top six places the competition was very hard fought. The top three gained automatic qualification for the BD Winter Championships but we are keeping our fingers crossed for a wildcard entry. BD allocate wildcards purely on a percentage basis to those combinations that didn't qualify automatically and Sheik's 69.44% puts him in a very strong position.

Claire and Sheik also competed in the Midlands Keiffer Medium Freestyle Regional Championships where they were placed a very creditable 11th. This has been Sheik's first season at Medium level and this is a very encouraging result.

Sheik's younger brother, the Knabstrupper stallion Rughavens Jackpot contested the Midlands Baileys Novice Freestyle Championship and was just outside the top ten in 13th place against some very illustrious opposition.

Like his brother, this young horse showed that Knabstruppers can compete successfully alongside the more "traditional dressage" horses and with both these horses showing tremendous potential for the advanced work they look to have a very promising future.

Claire has already qualified both these horses for the Pet Plan Area Festival Championship classes to be held at the BD Winter Championships at Hartpury College in April. Rughavens Jackpot will be contesting the Open Novice Final and Rughavens Sheik the Open medium and as this will be the third year running that Knabstruppers have been competing at the BD Winter Championships it goes to prove that they are consistently holding their own against top-level competition.

Everyone in the UKA would like to wish Claire and the boys lots of good luck in the Winter Championships - we are very proud of them all for the work they are doing in showing to the dressage world that Knabstruppers are so much more than pretty spotted horses!

We would also like to congratulate Janet Costidell and her Knabstrupper gelding Sandlundens Mango who competed in the Elevator Preliminary Championship at Myerscough College.