

Scurry NZ – Mandeville qualifying event report

Sixteen combinations turned out the weekend before Christmas to compete for the next 2 spots at the inaugural scurry championships. Again we welcomed a few drivers new to scurry and were treated to 2 new courses, both slightly more technical than at our previous Hororata event. This increased technicality showed in the results with only 3 combinations leaving all the balls intact during the qualifying round in the afternoon.

Again the format for the day was practice runs on the first course of the day followed by a competition over that same course; then a break for lunch and new course set up, a communal course walk of the second course then straight into the competition.

The morning runs saw clear rounds to 4 balls knocked down and overall scores from 50 seconds to 1 minute 40, so quite a spread on the 313m course. There was a real mixed bag of competitors too with 1st place going to Joanne Marama & her nippy pony Koriata, 2nd was Jill Stephenson with the ever consistent welsh pony Draytown Corona, 3rd Cherie Stalker with her tiny pinto pony Molly and 4th Llea-Anne Vlaanderen with her magnificent Friesian horse Marco.

The afternoon course at 315m was also more technical. Unfortunately the afternoon saw the retirement of Cherie & Molly but a great competition none-the-less with Jill taking out top spot with Draytown Corona on 56 seconds. Joanne took out 2nd with Koriata on an overall score of 1 minute & 1 second (having accrued 2 extra seconds for knocking a ball), 3rd place went to new-comer Kirsty Anderson with her miniature Milo also on 1 minute & 1 second. Becky Pocock drove a speedy clear round to take 4th spot on 1 minute 4 seconds, closely followed by Alan Stephenson also on 1 minute 4 seconds.

So after two qualifying events Jill, Lara, Joanne & Kirsty have all gained spots at the championship. Kirsty now has the dilemma of having to ask Milo's new owner whether she can take him for 1 last spin & compete at the championships on 31st March 2012. Come on boys we need a few of you to qualify & show the crowds scurry's not just for us girls!

If you're not sure if scurry is for you why not come and join us at 1 of our training days, the next 1 is at Mandeville on the afternoon of the 22nd January (just over from pony club where the welsh show is being hosted in the morning). Thank you to all of those who turn up to help and make the scurry days such fun!