

Overall Reserve Champions at NPS Dressage Finals

S42/107 Saris Salsa 2002 (*Hurstfield Eclipse / Katric Coppelia*)

Owned, bred & competed by Sarah Goddard



We left home at 6:30 a.m. Saturday morning with Saris Salsa aka Sid ready for our time of 11:30...a civilized time for once!

I got Sid warmed up ready for his prelim test, he went very sweetly and got a 4th in his class, but with the usual mix up with the organization we missed our presentation, we got in the ring but missed the lineup. So I said to Clare that we had better try harder for the next test.

The temperature had dropped a lot as we started to warm up which was good for Sid as it woke him up a little. Whilst I was doing my test Will Chatley was doing his test in the next arena and went wrong and let out a large expletive which not only made his judge laugh, but my judge too! I also had a quiet giggle, but thought that I have to pull myself together or I would be going wrong too. Sid gave me a lovely accurate test and I could have asked no more from him.

I watched Hanmer Wizard do a lovely test and I thought it would be a close run thing. After yet another wait we were ready for the presentation taken from the top ten announced in reverse order, so when they got to the last three I was getting excited and then there were two...just Wizard and Sid my heart was in my mouth, so I had been right it was between us two. They called Wizard forward and said by a good margin Saris Salsa first...I wasn't sure whether to laugh or cry, probably both so pleased with little Sid! He only started this dressage malarkey properly just over a year ago and up to then he was Clare's pony and had led an easy life, she only rode him weekends and when she started work he became a field ornament...so I took him on.

I knew then Sid would have to ride off to music with 14 other ponies and as his class was the last to finish, he was the last to go. At 8:10 he entered the arena to do his test to music...something I have

always wanted to do at Addington. The music started and we entered the arena, though a little weary he danced to his music perfectly, every music change he changed pace...we headed up the centre line, halted and I made a huge fuss of him.



All the finalist were called back and again from 10th they started again, when there were three left they announced that they had never had this happen before, that they had two which couldn't be split both Sid and a Dales pony were on identical scores. This caused uproar as they only had one second rosette and they would give out the second placed sash as they only had the one. I could have asked no more from him still going strong at 9:00 at night after a long day...he took it all in his stride the lights cameras everything!

Sarah Goddard