

## **S46/302(G) Silverlea Salsa 2004**

*(Wayland Red Pepper / Matley Nutkin)*

*Bred by Joyce Stainer, owned by Kate Ingram & competed by Aaron Coombes*

It was my first year taking part in the Inter-Hunt relay for the New Forest Hounds, and I was quite unsure about it at first. Salsa, my New Forest super star owned by Kate Ingram and myself had never done anything like this before. We arrived with just enough time to say our hellos, walk the course and tack up. Salsa was as good a gold! We were in both the junior and senior teams so our day was expected to be quite busy and it definitely was. In the Juniors, I was third to go and I had to rescue the girl who went second in both rounds as a rather big skinny was at fence two. Salsa flew round making it look easy and made up for lost time and our junior team came third!



**Zara Tindall and Salsa, the fastest round.**

*Photo © Barbury Castle*

Then I was also in the seniors team, New Forest Team 1...otherwise known as Team Ipley. I was third to go in this team as well! We managed to make it into the quarter finals after I had to rescue another member in our team which meant we had been round the course a whopping 6 times already! Our team was then drawn up against another New Forest Hounds team, which also happened to be the team my sister and Salsa's owner was in! It was a fierce fight but our team managed to beat theirs and we were in to the semi finals which took place down in the main ring. How exciting! Salsa was well up for the challenge and I couldn't be happier with how he was going! We were draw to go in the second round and on the XC side, which meant the crowds were all fired up but we were on the other side to them! My team mates were amazing! Zooming round the course and through the water at the top end of the arena. The crowd were going wild. Salsa was getting very excited by this point! It was then my turn. I grabbed the baton and flew off towards my first fence; Salsa going faster than he's ever gone before! We were slightly behind at the time but Salsa and me stormed over the fences and flew up the hill towards and through the water then down over the final fence passing the baton over to the final member of my team and Salsa and me had taken over the lead! We watched in anticipation as our last member flew round the course. It was over so quickly!

The results were calculated and they called out that the New Forest Ipley Team had won which meant that we were into the final! We hardly had time to breathe! We were now drawn on the crowds side and it was defiantly a battle well fought, our team did super again just narrowly finishing in second place! It was brilliant to be in such a buzzing atmosphere, the crowd cheering for their teams. It was even better being one of the fan favorites because I was on my little pocket rocket! By this time Salsa had done 8 rounds! But that wasn't all, the two winning team's horses

were then chosen for the JCB Champions Challenge which is where professionals from the racing and eventing world go head to head over the same course! The competition was fierce! Mr Salsa at the time had made quite a name for himself and become one of the favorites which sparked the attention of the Eventing Team captain who happened to be Zara Tindall! Zara had chosen to ride my horse! It was an amazing feeling; I couldn't wipe the smile off my face! She quickly hopped on him and they were soon escorted into the arena by the officials! It was excellent watching such a brilliant rider on super star salsa. She was last to go as she was the team captain and the crowds were all pumped up! She soared round the course and we even have pictures to prove she was having fun! Look at her smile! They finished just behind the jockeys this year but it was announced that Salsa and Zara had done the quickest round which created loads of clapping and cheering from the crowds!



### **Zara Tindall on Silverlea Salsa with Aaron**

*Photo ©David Coombes; Zara & Salsa – Barbury International Horse Trials*

It was such a wonderful day! Zara was so lovely and I couldn't be happier with Salsa...he had done 9 rounds that day and still had enough energy to do it again! He's such a wonderful pony! I love him so much! Kate, his owner, and Penny, the team organiser were also really supportive! It was such a wonderful day!

### **Aaron Coombes, Age 14**

*Poole & District Pony Club*

***Our thanks to The Barn Equine for allowing us to use Aaron's story.***

*Very interesting as it is likely that when Aaron's father David was a young child, he learned to ride on his mother Davina's late, great Silverlea Mr Mole. Orphaned at birth and cared for by a dedicated member of staff at the New Forest Buckhound kennels, Mr Mole grew into a super 14.2 New Forest pony. **Joyce Stainer***