

What a fantastic day!

REPORT BY JUDITH HUBBARD PICTURES BY JUDY JONES

On a glorious summer's day, the Mendip Stud hosted a Western Equestrian Society (WES) Area 3 show at their impressive facility in Somerset. The level of support for the show, from competitors and spectators, really does show that western is well and truly on the map! Organisers were delighted that a total of 50 horses competed in what was possibly the largest one day western show to date in the UK, but certainly in Area 3 (which covers Cornwall, Devon, Somerset and Wiltshire). WES members showed just how committed they are by travelling from as far afield as West Wales and Sussex, as well as from all over the South West. This perfect summer day was also enjoyed by over a hundred spectators who lined the arenas watching over 20 classes being tirelessly judged by Mrs Scherie Dermody from Cheshire.

Full results of the show and more pictures are available on the WES web-site (www.wes-uk.com) but special mention is due to Jeannette Jones (see picture) from Holsworthy in West Devon. This was Jeanette's first WES show and she had a very successful day, winning the Novice Rider Trail and being placed in many other classes. The day was all the more special because her mare Tober Cheroken was bred by Di Wilson from Bodmin, and Di was on hand to watch the pretty Appaloosa do so well. Also from Devon, Prue Fellows showed that reining bred horses can compete very successfully in a range of classes, placing in all classes she entered and winning the Novice Rider horsemanship on her pretty and compact chestnut mare.

From further afield, Chrissie Mayhew (see picture) is a very consistent performer with her palomino Quarter horse DA Steady Vegas. Chrissie and Vegas picked up many awards including first place in Open Horsemanship and Open Trail. Vegas has combined a successful career in the show ring with stud duties up to this year, but has now been gelded following the scaling down of the Mayhew's Wye Oak Stud in Sussex. He has a

fantastic temperament and has all the true qualities of a quarter horse: calm nature, athletic performance and good looks. From over the border in Wales, Nigel and Lisa Crowe from Aberystwyth were also rewarded for making the long journey. Both collected numerous rosettes, highlights being Lisa's first place in the Open Showmanship with her beautifully turned out and presented sorrel, and Nigel's win in the Novice Rider Pleasure with his striking new 5 year old quarter horse gelding A Snip of a Jay. This performance was all the more impressive as he's only had the horse for 5 weeks.

All in all this was a fantastic show with a great atmosphere. Whilst the standard of competition was very high, the atmosphere was very relaxed and friendly – no doubt helped by some humorous stewarding. If anyone out there is curious about western I really would urge you to just go along to a show and enjoy yourself – you'll get a warm welcome and



people are always willing to explain what's going on. You never know, you may even get hooked! To find out about WES and AQHA shows happening near you in July and August, check out the events pages in this month's magazine. (Details can be found on www.themendipstud.com)

Woody's Diary

Woody's had a busy month. He's attended two shows, and has made lots of new friends. His first show was the Devon Western Riding Club's spring show at the Grange where he won the Open Pleasure and went on to win the Open Hi Point trophy (see picture of Woody posing in his fancy sash). This was still only his fourth show ever and he continues to impress me with his maturity, coping with busy warm up arenas and all the buzz of a show. Unfortunately, I managed to let him down by getting disqualified in the showmanship class for leaving out a manoeuvre! In my defence I can only say that it was very early in the morning and I obviously what you might call a "senior moment". But I'm happy to report that at the WES Area 3 show I managed to remember the pattern and we placed third in a very well-supported class. I was particularly pleased with this result because it

qualifies Woody for the Championship class at the WES National Show in August. He managed to repeat this achievement by placing 3rd in Open Horsemanship which means we also qualified in that class! We also placed 2nd in Novice Horse Trail over a very tight and testing course, then 5th in Open Trail. With the level of entries and standard of competition being so high, I was really proud that Woody not only was placed in all of his classes, but also that he's already half way towards achieving our aim of qualifying in 4 championship classes. At our next WES show (at the Mendip Stud on 1st and 2nd August) we're aiming to qualify in trail and pleasure.

Once again I've been really impressed by Judy Jones' lovely little horse. This was the first show he's been to where he's been in a range of classes and once again he was Mr Reliable. Not only that but he started a Woody fan club with many lovely people coming up to look at his markings and pet him. He just loves all the attention - but I won't be letting it go to his head! Next month his first AQHA show at the Mendip Stud.