

## GAMES REPORTS 2005

### Eglinton Senior "A" Games Team

Neah Evens, Chelsea Burns, Kyrstin Cunningham, Amy Fergusson and Gina Mitchell.

I was well pleased with the year; the team were unbeaten in Scotland and went on to win both Competitions at the Horse of the Year Show – the first Prince Philip Cup win since 2000!

Riders and parents were great, and my thanks to all who helped, especially Nan Paton.

It's nice to be back at the top!

ROBERT NOBLE

### Eglinton Senior "B" Games Team

Consisting of Rachel and Katie Offer, Beth Ingram, Mary Pearson and Robbie Ferguson.

It was a tricky year as most of the ponies suffered setbacks and a full team was seldom on the field.

All in all we had a good year winning Dunblane Show and the Lanark Pony Club run at the end of the season. We were also second at our Area just behind our "A" Team, Angus Show where we just got pipped at the post by Strathearn Pony Club in the very last race and we also came second at the Pony Club Novice Championships at Cheshire. The team also achieved many other high placed finishes. I would like to take this chance to say thank you to our juniors, Katy Pearson, Caitlin Cunningham and Tyler McWilliams who stepped in and helped out the team and kept up their end well. I would also like to thank Jim Pearson and Jill Offer for their help with the training and equipment.

To quote a famous TV presenter "DIDN'T THEY DO WELL"

Jimmy Robertson

### Eglinton Senior "C" Games Team

We competed at every friendly this year, the only Senior team to do that. Our best run was the last competition at Lanark where we finished fourth. Thanks to Neah from the "A"s for a guest appearance. Well done to regulars – Victoria Lind, Ellis Simister, Claire Gaffney and Holly Mills. Thanks to parents – Linda, Carol and Olwen for all the support and help. You are all capable of greater things next year.

Gordon Ridland

### Junior "A" Games Team

Eglinton Junior A Team 2005 had a real challenge: all the 2004 A team became senior and the B team had never really got going. So this years junior A was starting from along way down the ladder; with three 8 year olds- one completely new to games and another only having done a couple of competitions. However riders worked hard and if we had had some of the old schoolmasters like Sugar, Shifter, Dolly we could have had a competitive team. But the first competition saw ponies flying everywhere, riders unable to get on and it looked like Eglinton were going to set records in the wrong direction.

However the team had tenacity and kept trying: ponies improved or were changed and at the Area (in May) we just managed to qualify to go to the Zone. At the Zone (in July) to everyones amazement we were in the lead after the first few races! .... but it did not last.

This years junior competitions were won by a variety of teams. Angus and K&C

were the strongest but also Strathern and Lanark had victories. The highlight for us was Blair Atholl where the team excelled themselves AND WON! It was a huge achievement for them and I was absolutely delighted.

We had just managed to qualify for Glen Eagles so we joined the Senior "A" team to train indoors; thank you very much Linda! Glen Eagles is always a good competition to end the season with and although the team were a bit disappointed in their position, I felt they had come on a very long way. (The main offender of the weekend was Bess who after a fairly consistent record outside, flipped with the noise and atmosphere.)

This years team:-

Katie Pearson and Rhona: from being a bit tentative at the start, they were flying at the end of the season. They go senior next year, which in one way is a pity, as I feel Katie could do with another year to consolidate her vault. (You will just have to work over the winter Katie!)

Caitlyn Cunningham and Snowflake: - sometimes Snowflake was angelic and she and Caitlyn could be relied upon to go anywhere, a good starter, finisher or take a difficult change; other times.... (female hormones) Snowflake would take off and was impossible to stop. Need I say more?

Tyler McWilliam and Coco:-Tyler started with Poppy but Poppy (senior B) was not kind to her and regularly took off. However Coco and Tyler are building a really good partnership and with an excellent vault and good throw Tyler is a very useful person to have on the team.

Hamish McIntosh and Pip Squeak, April, Coco, Poppy and Bess: - sticking to one pony throughout the season has its benefits but needs must and Hamish clocked up a lot of experience riding different ponies with very different strengths and weakness.

Tiffany Targel Worth and Soldier: - Tiffany started with Misty but he didn't like games so she moved up to Soldier. It was lovely to see her smile as she flew up and down the bending but Soldier is not so easy at the standing still races. Being ambidextrous, Tiffany could pickup and mount from either side.

Our reserve, Chelsea Gaffney and Harvey (they won the Sunshine Cup) joined the team for a couple of competitions and the indoor training - improving rapidly. I hope to see them with the team next year.

I feel the team has come a long way up the ladder and although there is still a way to go, a good season in 2006 and a trip to Cheshire and maybe even Sansaw will transform them.

Thanks to Robert Noble for providing, looking after and putting out the equipment

Hopefully next year there will be more people to help putting it out and bringing it back. Don't wait to be asked- just come and do it.

Thanks to all the parents- without your support the team would not exist. But remember it does not have to be a winning team for the kids to get a great deal of fun out of it.

Ros Evans

### Junior B Team Report

We started up in January with a group of keen children, and some perhaps not so keen ponies, most of who had not done

games before. Our main team stalwart was Chelsea Gaffney who started on Bonnie but luckily changed to Harley [I think that Bonnie gave a huge sigh of relief]. They developed a good partnership which culminated in Chelsea winning the Sunshine Cup. Rachel Scott and Elise Harker both started on ponies who were not very happy playing games. They both progressed onto new ponies who think that games are good fun, Rachel has Muffy and Elise has Mouse. Occasionally the ponies are a bit too keen and things get a bit frantic but both girls have improved enormously and they should have great fun next year. Sophie Targel Worth's pony, April, was used by the junior 'A' team at the beginning of the year but Sophie managed wangle her back. She is doing really well as long as she remembers not to go too fast! Ashley and Tee Jay were our most experienced pair but sadly Tee Jay was sidelined due to injury for some of the season. Christopher Liechti, with Candy, and Harris Ritchie, with Romeo and Fred, have had a difficult season with uncooperative ponies. Candy still refuses to go near a 'blue barrel', I'm hoping that she's going to share her stable with one all winter! Fred and Romeo tried Harris' patience to the extreme, she coped really well and her ability to reach down and pick things up off the barrels amazed me. Shelby McWilliams joined us half the way through the season. It was nice to have her back and I hope that she has great fun next year on her new pony. We had Rachel Todd and Millie with us for most of the season. Unfortunately she is officially a senior but she did manage to get to one competition with us but the team had to compete HC. Hopefully next year she will be able to carry on in the senior ranks. Alice Scott and Rocky and Katie Ritchie and Fred have been at most of the practices and have done some of the lead rein competitions, next year they should manage in a proper team. Lois Todd joined us at the end of the season and he is another that I hope will continue next year.

We took one team to most of the competitions except one in July at Crofthead where we managed to muster two teams which was great. At the first competitions we were just about last in everything and all the field had to wait for us getting into position and finishing our races. By the end of the season we were winning [yes, winning] some races and we were waiting for other teams to get into position. At Blair we were very unlucky not to get into the 'middle road'. I would like to thank all the parents for their support, especially Olwin who helped me at the competitions and practices, and to all the children for their hard work and enthusiasm. I hope that you all enjoyed it as much as I did and that you will all be back next year. I also hope that there will be some new faces joining; anyone who would like to try come along and find out what it is all about, it is great fun.....