

Dear All

The CPEDI Breda is a new competition which forms part of the Breda Para Games, this is the first year that they have included Equestrian to the sports list, there are 25 different sports and up to 2500-3000 participants. The organizers of the equestrian sport received double the amount of entries that they were expecting, with 18 countries taking part!

Unfortunately for the organizers the weather didn't play along with it raining heavily for all three days of competition! Friday was the first day of the competition, Verdi and I had unfortunately drawn first to go at 8:00 in the morning. We arrived in a down pour to find Verdi's stable flooded, Chris went scouting around which and landed up finding a free stable which was luckily dry!! My friend who was plaiting was clever enough to have a miner's light on her cap so that she had enough light, just as she finished we lost all the lights in the stables! Working with a black horse in a very black stable is interesting to say the least. Verdi landed up doing a brilliant test and we lead up until the second last horse! We were 2nd in the Team Test with 68.13% out of 18 horses.

Saturday for the Championships we were the very last horse to go in the evening, unfortunately by the time we did our test Verdi was completely feed up with being wet and decided to take exception to something on the long side and just made himself stupidly strong. We finished 5th with 66.08%. Because the number of entries was so high, the organizers had decided that they would combine the first and second day scores and take the top 60% of each grade to ride the musical freestyle. So we made the cut!

Having learned from our mistakes the night before Sunday Verdi went on to do a incredible musical freestyle and we finished 3rd with 72.50% out of 12 horses.

Philippa