

Abbey Dressage Winter Championship 2011-12

The Abbey Dressage unaffiliated Winter Championship series produced worthy champions in both Open and Restricted championships with the two champions appropriately having the highest number of most class wins.

Open champions were Kellie Watkins and the ex-racehorse Crewezando, the pair also winning the Racehorse to Riding Horse points championship. With three second and three third placings to add to three class wins the combination established an early lead after the second leg of the series that was never overtaken and culminated in a double class win in the final leg of the series to crown a fine season-long effort. Reserve Open Champions were Kelly Hunt and Smartie. Despite missing the first leg of the series, the pair established themselves in second spot after the third leg and remained there with two class wins and a number of other placings. Third place in the Open Championship went to Forest of Dean based Shirley Powell and her mare Retama. This combination showed steady progress over the season with only a class win eluding them amongst their placings. They saved their best performance till the final leg to seal third spot.

Restricted Championship honours went to Georgina Bull and another ex-racehorse Sun Bian, the pair also finishing second in the Racehorse to Riding Horse table, this combination scored four class wins in a row, to establish an early lead and with two second placings they were never caught. Reserve Restricted Champions were Cassandra Eaves and Bella Emma who claimed second spot despite not contesting all of the shows. Two class wins and two second spots proved just enough to maintain a narrow two point lead over third placed Jenni Chidlow and Milo. A series of regular placings over the season kept this combination close to the top of the table throughout the season but a class win in the final show raised the pair into third place.

Congratulations to all the successful combinations and we hope to see a good competition in the Summer Series that begins at Abbey Dressage on Sunday 4 March. Schedules are now available from www.abbeydressage.co.uk.