



Salisbury Plain Pleasure Ride 2013

Saturday afternoon found my husband and myself marking the course for the ride the next day. It was boiling hot and was forecast for an even hotter on Sunday.

The course marked we did our own horses for the night and went home to get ready for the next day.

I arrived at the venue at 8:45am to start setting up for the first riders. I had already been up hours, done my own horses, and made lunch for the helpers.

Due to heat we had also made sure that we had extra water and buckets at the two check points the horses and squash for the riders at check point two



Rider approaching Check Point One enjoying the scenery

The forecast high temperatures meant most riders turned up early. The first rider went out on the course at 9:30 and almost three quarters of the 35 riders who rode were out by the start time of 10am. Everyone who came were all out on the course by 11am.

Riders came from as far a field as Yeovil and Basingstoke and had a thoroughly enjoyable ride.

Most riders decided to take the short route when they reached check point one as the temperature rose very quickly. By the time they reached check point two most were gasping for a drink and spent a couple of minutes just refreshing themselves before the long up hill gallop and several long grass tracks bringing them back to the venue.



A frequent sight at the end of the ride. Happy rider and horse



Comparing notes after the ride

For those yet to try the Salisbury Plain ride you are missing a treat. There are two road crossing but otherwise the ride is on tracks and grassland. No maps are required as the course is marked with arrows which put you on a track and you just keep going until you see the next one. There are long grassland tracks where you can canter and even gallop if you want to. There are always people to ride with or you can go on your own. No set times to start mean you arrive, book in, collect your tabard and start when you ready.

A pleasurable day was had by all and a big thank you to all those riders who made a point of emailing to express their appreciation to all those who helped on the ride. I also extend my sincere thanks, once again, to Barbara and Heather who manned the check points, Ruth who helped me at the start and my husband, John without their assistance the ride would not run so smoothly. Lastly to an unexpected companion who enjoyed the shade with Ruth and I whilst her mum rode.



Reported to Rosie Pack by Carole Reid