

## **A Most Satisfying Year!**

The Rogerson family have had a fantastic season this year. Twins Sarah and Rachael have both been sitting their final year at University, so mum Mary has played a crucial role in keeping all three of their horses fit.

Rachel and Gryphon are this year's EGB national champions, having won the 160km Solstice ER at Cirencester and then capped the season by coming a very close second in the Arab Marathon.

Sarah has also had some fantastic ER results and is now in California working for international endurance rider Dom Freeman – maybe we should get her to talk to us about her experience when she comes home!

We asked proud dad Steve to give us a brief reminder of the families' successes in 2009.

### **Sarah and C S Kabira:**



*Sarah being crewed at Sherwood – Photo by Steve Rogerson*

She started out on the FEI ladder and did the 90k 1\* at Haywood Oaks coming 5th and later the 2\* at Euston on the 27th of June (19th).

Meanwhile she won the 2day 160 at Berkshire Downs. This was a proper win. On the much of the second day she was with both Jill Kent and Susan Hawes, Jill ended up losing a shoe, in fact I think she lost 2 over event and Sarah managed to burn off Susan whose horse ran out of petrol on the penultimate loop.



*Sarah at the Berkshire Downs finishing line – photo by Steve Rogerson*

To cap the season off she did the 2 day 160 at Sherwood which she also won.

Sarah is in California at the moment staying with Dom Freeman having a great time.

**Rachael and Gryphon (a.k.a. Lori)**



*Rachael at the Solstice Ride – photo by Steve Rogerson*

Lori has only done 4 rides this year. The 67km CR at FoD Bluebell was done as a fattening ride. Mary rode him at Dukeries in the 2 day 160km because Sarah did Berkshire Downs and Rachael was doing her finals. She won, but this was a pretty much a walk over as the only other person went out lame. The next ride was the Solstice which they obviously won.

This was again a "proper" win. He'd never done a 1 day 160km before and we went with the intention of getting round, hopefully in good shape. She went off slowly as she always does with Lori but then as she speeded up on the later loops we noticed we were catching the leaders – Jill Kent and Susan Hawes. She went out on the last loop in the lead didn't see them again. We intended to complete the year with a third win at the 2day 160 Barbury Castle, but life doesn't usually work out that neatly and he went out with cracked heels on the 2nd day. The marathon was great fun, as often happens coming 2nd seemed a disappointment. It was a very competitive race with 4 horses in with a shout until the final 2-3 furlongs, coming down to 2 only within the last furlong.

I should mention Mary as well.

As the girls were both doing their finals this year, most of the training of Kabira, Lori and (Marlak Silver) Flame, her own horse, was down to her. To complete the set Flame and Mary won the Tyro at Southwell, also a proper win.

I don't know about you, but we often sit around at the beginning of the year and think we will do this with this horse etc etc, but by the beginning of March either riders or horses are injured. This didn't happen this year and it has gone better than we can have expected. I don't suppose we will ever have such a successful year again.

Steve Rogerson