

# Sunshine Tour Championship 2018



February 2018

## What's Your Champion Like?

Champions come in all shapes and sizes, types, breeds and colours. Of course, our own beloved horse or pony is already a champion, well under all that mud they are! Whether yours is small and scruffy or big and beautiful you have the chance to take part in a championship at the UK most prestigious venue, The All England Jumping Course at Hickstead. For 3 years the Sunshine Tour has been crowning unaffiliated champions at Hickstead and 2018 there will be lots of excited competitors making their pilgrimage to the 'hallowed turf' from 13<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> September for fun, camping, laughs, nerves, triumphs, tears and maybe some Sunshine Tour glory. With 1,800 iconic rosettes to give away, 250 sashes and over 60 branded rugs and jackets for championships if you would like to find out how you can take part and get on the Road to Hickstead, see [www.sunshinetour.co.uk](http://www.sunshinetour.co.uk)

Hundreds of riders have already logged into the new qualifying system at 'How to Qualify' on the website and been out and about this year chasing qualification in their chosen disciplines of show jumping, dressage, showing and eventers challenges.

## Rescue Pony Helps Young Para Rider

Rescued as a youngster, 7-year-old Welsh Section B, Trowswell Sahira aka Hettie has helped 9-year-old Oliver Poinsignon, who has Cerebral Palsy, progressed from lead rein classes to First Ridden. They have qualified at Sands Farm, West Sussex in Mountain & Moorland First Ridden and hope to qualify for Intro Dressage too.



Oliver Poinsignon and Trowswell Sahira  
Photo courtesy of LRG Photography



Naomi Oliver with Bollinger

## From Field to Hickstead

Bought from a field, 'very green' 12.2hh, 8-year-old Dartmoor mare 'Bollinger' has qualified at Highbrook Stables, Hampshire with 7-year-old, Naomi Oliver in Intro Dressage in Hampshire. Naomi has worked hard for over a year to bring Hallie on and became "very well aquatinted with the floor" along the way, but the pair are now on the road to Hickstead!

## Best of Friends

It's been quite a long and bumpy road to Hickstead for 11-year-old Mia Dwyer from Kent and her "best friend" of 5 years, 14.2hh grey gelding, Elliott. After years of hard work, the pair have formed a strong bond and found success in show jumping. "He'd obviously had a bit of a rough time over the past and we couldn't load him and found everyday tasks so hard." Mia came 10<sup>th</sup> out of 50 starters in the 60cm Championships in 2017 and she is aiming to get in the top 5 this year.



Mia Dwyer and Elliott



Katie Mathews jumping Commonsfields Mia

### Lifetime Dream

Katie Mathews has qualified her 'once in a lifetime' horse, 10-year-old 15.2hh Welsh section D cross, Commonsfields Mia in the 85cm show jumping at Crofton Manor, Hampshire. Mia has been wanting to qualify for the past 3 years, but not had the right horse but now with Mia the pair are qualified, and Katie was "so excited when I found out I qualified and can't wait to complete for my first time in the Sunshine Tour."

### The Finishing Line is in Sight

14-year-old Welsh pony, Rosie has been with the Sykes family in Kent for 9 years. Since taking on the ride from her elder sister, 6-year-old Annabel and Rosie are making a great team and they have already had one trip to the hallowed grounds at Hickstead to compete in show jumping. Mum, Alison said "She went to The Sunshine Tour 2017 but lost her course, so this year she is looking forward to trying again and finishing the course." We think that whatever happens at the championship, Annabel and Rosie are going to have a fabulous time!!



Annabel Sykes with best friend, Rosie



Mia de Simone and Murraybrook Pipestrelle

### From Strength to Strength

Mia De Simone and her 15.2hh, 11-year-old part bred Arab, Murraybrook Pipestrelle loved going to the 2017 Sunshine Tour and enjoyed great success in the Intro Dressage, not only winning Reserve Champion but also the pair achieved their personal best score! Going from strength to strength, Mia has been awarded a training bursary from Brook Farm Training Centre, Essex and with regular lessons from BD coach Kim Ratcliffe, she hopes to take part in both the Prelim and Novice Championships this year.

### Onwards and Upwards

11-year-old Lucy Bailey with her 11-year-old 14.1hh New Forest pony, Buttslawn Olympus have already qualified in the 60cm show jumping at Crofton Manor, Hampshire. But she has already set her sights on higher things, namely the 70cm qualification! Lucy qualified last year on newly acquired Olympus in the 50cm class, so after a year of their partnership she is moving on from Mini Tour to Small Tour. As Olympus "loves jumping" we're sure they will both enjoy the Sunshine Tour this year.



Lucy Bailey qualifying with Buttslawn Olympus  
Photo courtesy of Sharon T Photography

**Good luck to everyone with qualification – don't forget to take your Personal Qualifier Form with you to your shows and register your qualifications within 10 days 😊**