

## 2004

**Date:** July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2004

**Host:** Opportunity Pony Club

**Location:** Central Nova Horse & Pony Association Grounds, Salmon River, Truro, NS.

**Number of teams (5 members per team):** Total of 7 teams (3 B's; 4 A's)

**Clubs participated:** 4/10 (Annapolis, West Valley, Colchester and Opportunity)

It was a quite morning when I arrived at Central Nova at 6:30 AM. Only a few horse trailers and tents set up. Not a noise came from the tents or barns where the riders and ponies rest for the big day of games. I thought "it is the calm before the storm". I started to unload my truck full of props and prizes for the day. For no reason I knew, I already had butterflies in my stomach.

The show information went up and then the props and with the line making underway, ponies started to arrive, trailer after trailer and the storm began to roll in. A large stock trailer that arrived, pony after pony after pony came off that trailer, there must have been about 10 ponies on there. I didn't know when they were going to stop coming off. All the ponies at the Cup were so cute, some very small (11hh), some larger and a wonderful variety of colors. Some teams even decorated their ponies in team colors. There was one team that attached streamers to the top of their ponies tails in the team colors. The Same streamers were also attached to the riders shirts. Around their mounts nose band and brow band they wrapped ribbon in the same team colors. They had put sparkly gel on their ponies haunches, each mount with a different design. This was very unique and made the team stand out, but I do believe they borrowed the idea from a good friend. All together we had about 35 riders and ponies. This was much larger then I expected.

The day started at 8:45 AM with a meeting with all the volunteers who were going to be line judges, starters, and secretaries; a job that must be filled to make the day go on. At 9:00AM on schedule, we had a meeting with all the competitors, coaches and parents explaining how the day was going to run and to answer any last minute questions. By 9:30AM we were ready to tack up and begin the games at 10:00AM. The first game started 15 min late. No worries it was only 15 minutes and everyone knows that horse shows never run on time! We then ran through 3 heats of each game. The first game of the day was bending poles, then the 3 mug race, the Canadian race, and ball and cone race. Even after starting 15 min behind we ended on time at 12PM for lunch, back on schedule. The ponies were untacked and put away to rest up for the afternoon games.

During lunch while setting up the photo center, across the ring I could hear laughing and merriment, sounded like everyone was having a good time. About 10 min into lunch music and singing was heard. A group of Pony Club members had cracked open the karaoke. I must say I didn't know we might have the next Canadian Idol on our hands! Good singing girls! ☺

During the lunch break there was a Ball Toss to raise funds for NS PPG. During a ball toss you buy a ball, then at lunch from the outside of the ring you try to get it in the bucket which is in the middle of the ring. The person with the ball the closest or in the bucket wins the prize. This year the prize was 50/50. After watching everyone throw the balls I was glad that we all rode ponies/horses and didn't play baseball! HAHAHA. Brian

Rice of West Valley Pony Club won the 50/50 which was a whopping 45 dollars!!! I am sure he will buy something nice for his pony.

Since I am writing about fundraising I would like to thank to OPC for running the canteen and donating the profit to NS PPG. Any donations are always appreciated.

Well the games continued after lunch. We started up the afternoon with playing the Hi-Lo race, and moved onto stepping stones, five flag and the Pony Club race. As a spectator you could see the riders learnt after playing the morning games that slow and steady wins the race. Everyone started to slow down and be a little more accurate, rather than worrying about being the fastest. The afternoon games finished a ½ hour early so we moved the awards to 3:30. By 4:00 everyone had packed'r in and were ready to head home.

Overall the day went well. We only had one rider fall off and the very smart mount stayed in the correct lane so there was no penalty given. There was lots of cheering from the sidelines, which was nice to see.

A big thanks to all the people who sponsored this event.

- The Allen family for the major sponsor and donating the Cup for the A division
- Swagmans Tack Shop of Berwick NS for the wonderful prizes
- Apple Saddlery for donating hats
- Berwick Recreation Department for lending their line maker
- Lafarge's for lending pylons
- Town of Truro for lending pylons
- Alissa Cue of the West Valley Pony Club for donating lime

I would also like to thank everyone for participating in the Cup. I hope you all went home with more than you expected, new ideas for your clubs, enthusiasm to get more riders out next year, with a big smile on your face, and excited for next year's cup.

See you at the 2005 PPG Cup and hope the rest of your summer is as successful as you all were at the cup.

#### **A's**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Annapolis
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Opportunity 1
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Colchester
- 4<sup>th</sup> Opportunity 2

#### **B's**

- 1<sup>st</sup> West Valley
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Annapolis
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Opportunity