



September 30, 2011

PRINCE PHILIP GAMES NATIONAL A REPORT

BCLM hosted the National A's this year on September 9-11. Unfortunately we could only accommodate 3 teams, as once again pony lending was a big issue. We will continue to try to convince people out here that lending their ponies is actually good training and won't ruin a pony for life.

The teams stayed at the Riverport Holiday Inn in Richmond which was 15 minutes from the meet & greet in Vancouver and 20 minutes from the competition in the other direction in Surrey. We suggest this Hotel because there is bowling, swimming, movies, rock climbing etc. within walking distance. The continental breakfast is also really convenient.

The meet & greet was at Southlands Riding Club in Vancouver. It was the start of their Country Fair and this event was called The Hoe Down. They open up all the doors at the Club House and set up tables inside and outside. We met just as the event was starting so it wasn't too busy and had a meal of hot dogs, food trays and snacks. The coaches and I found a quiet table to go over the packages. The teams finished the evening watching a 4 bar competition and then gathered in the club house to mingle.

The competition was held on Saturday under sunny skies. We ran 2 sets of six races, then broke for lunch, then finished the final set of six races. It was the closest competition I have ever witnessed in my years with PPG. There were no eliminations and all 3 teams were tied at three different points of the competition with no more than a 2 point spread between first and third for the entire competition, with many photo finishes. All 3 teams were tied after the 16th race and the 17th race was a tie between Ontario and Vancouver. It was the 18th and final race that decided the winner. Vancouver finished first, Ontario second and awarded the sportsmanship trophy and Alberta finished third. It was a fine display of talent and sportsmanship.

We had the wind-up party Saturday evening back in Surrey at a residence close to where the competition was held earlier that day. There we had a pool/hot tub party and a wonderful dinner put on by the Schneider family. Many thanks for being wonderful hosts and making the evening a lasting memory to an awesome day.

Overall the weekend was a success with everyone concerned and many thanks to the pony lenders and the volunteers that made it happen.

Respectfully submitted,
Don Cornish, B.C.L.M. P.P.G. co-chair