

Dressage WA Newsletter

APRIL 2016

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Winter is coming and the WA State Dressage Championships are next month. It's going to be a great week with Christoph Hess leading into a revised Championships program and trade hub organised by the hardworking State Dressage Championship Committee. Book your tickets and get your entries in! Also don't forget to attend the DWA Riders' Forum on the 19th April. Let's work together to make dressage in WA even better.

In this edition we meet Kerry Dyjak. Would you like to add something to the newsletter? Contact us at www.dressagewa.org.

Message from the DWA Chair - Gill Botten

The competition season is now in full swing with regional, midweek and metro dressage competitions in abundance. There are some exciting new horse and rider combinations appearing and some very commendable scores appearing on the board. It has been great to see the general trending of higher scores in both new and more established combinations as riders progress up the grades.

The dressage community is very much looking forward to the Christoph Hess Masterclass in May and the State Dressage Championships in May where there will be freestyles on the Saturday evening this year which are always entertaining.

Our judges have all been working hard around the State – I was asked by organisers to remind our judges to remain after the competition for the required time, especially if they were on centre line and need to sign off the tests. Our organisers work so hard as volunteers and I think the

majority of judges are very conscientious in this area. The discussion of the final marks and placings between judges is also a valuable tool for all concerned.

I am heading to the CDI in Sydney this week and am looking forward to seeing some inspiring competition in the lead up competition to Rio.

Thought for the month:

"The secret to getting the best from a horse is to listen to his special character and find the key to him in training and competition"

Isabell Werth, H&H magazine, 17 March 2016



Dressage Western Australia Committee Members

Chair - Gill Botten Vice Chair - Dwight Pedlow Treasurer - Dinah Fleming

Finance/Treasury - Dinah Fleming DWA budget management, DDF accounts, purchase orders and payments

Issue of Information – Rebecca DeVries

Website and Facebook

Correspondence - Gill Botten/Jo

Yacopetti

Minutes, Agendas, incoming and outgoing correspondence.

Business/Strategic Planning - Dwight Pedlow

Sponsorship – Rebecca De Vries

Events – Working Parties

Club Liaison – Marjory Stanger

Pony Representative – Steph Munro

Official Liaison - Elaine Greene Judges, Stewards, liaising with other disciplines, national issues.

High Performance - Gill Botten

EA/EWA - Gill Botten

liaising with EWA Board and CEO, ADC etc.

Riders Representative - Tracy

Spackman

Includes downgrading applications,

Rider's forum etc.

Performance Trophies/Awards – Dwight Pedlow/Val Mayger

DWA Newsletter - Suzanne Simons

Para Equestrian – Val Mayger

Young and Junior Rider Rep - Natalie

Sakich/Steph Munro

Meet dressage rider Kerry Dyjak

Kerry and Primrose Park Red Fox haven't been together for a very long time but they make up for that in the dressage arena with their outstanding results. Kerry hopes to compete up to advanced level with her pony.

Tell us about Primrose Park Red Fox. My pony Primrose Park Red Fox known as "Ron" is an 8 year old bay 14.2 hh gelding. He is a welsh section D (cob) by Bookra Legal Edition and out of a mare called Jackie O. I purchased him in July 2014 as a 6 year old from some lovely people in Victoria after seeing an ad in Horse Deals. I had been on the look-out for a new horse for a while so regularly looked at the welsh pony sale page where I found the ad for Ron. I said to my husband, "here, look at this. This is what I would love to own".

Thinking it wasn't possible for me to buy a horse from another state, I left it at that but couldn't help looking the ad up a few times over the next month or so to see if he was still for sale - and he was. Then my husband said to me, "if that's what you are sure you want then call them." (I think he got sick of me talking about the ad.)

After many, many questions, phone calls and videos from Ron's previous owner, I was with my friend Kelly on the aeroplane heading for Melbourne.

At first I didn't really think Ron was going to come home to Perth as he had no idea about moving off my leg and when I tried to halt at X we managed a halt by G. I only had four days of wet rainy weather to try him and we had to float every day to ride somewhere because the property was so wet. But after a lot of rides with Kelly taking lots of video, a few calls to Sophie Warren (my coach) and lots of video watching each evening, I decided he was coming home. He seemed to have a good go button and that was a good thing. He also



had nice regular paces. Once we started doing a bit together it didn't take long to get him to understand stop! And he caught on well to the leg aids. One thing I did work out is that he really didn't have a great go button on my terms either; it was just that he preferred to go! So lots of back to basic lessons and training for go when I ask and stop when I ask was needed. Luckily, Ron is a pony that always tries his best no matter what we are doing so it has been a lot of fun working with him. He is a character; he has a lovable happy pony attitude and he catches on to things really

quickly.

What has been the key to his training? I think the key to our training would be regular lessons with Sophie Warren to keep me on track and getting out and about to lots of different riding places; whether it is dressage, jumping, adult riders, clinics, going to the beach, doing some ground work or just a quiet ride out.

What are your riding goals? My main goal is to keep on enjoying what we are doing (a bit of everything). I would love to ride at advanced dressage level with Ron.

How did you start out in riding and dressage? It was my dad that got me involved in horses. He trained a few pacers and we were lucky enough to have a pony that at the time we kept in Como. I remember doing laps following the pacers around the jog track on our 11 hh pony. As a 7 year old I started at Orange Grove Pony

Club and from there we made some wonderful friends. I rode all disciplines but mainly loved the novelties (games) and jumping. When I grew out of the pony I started riding my brothers pony that was a welsh cob and this is where my love of welsh cobs came from, he was a super pony!

I had a few years break from the horse world when I got married and started our family and then we bought a property. I had to have a horse! When my eldest daughter, Erin, turned 5, we got her a pony and off we went to pony club! Then Renae started lead line and both of my daughters went through pony club at Riverside Park for about 14 years. I got involved on the committee and rode my quarter horses at adult riders group, a few unofficial events and enjoying the



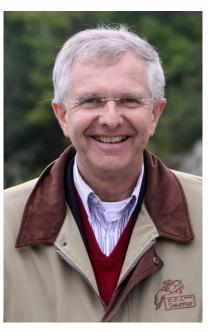
lower levels of eventing which the dressage is a big part of. Erin continued with pony club, games and jumping and Renae enjoyed the dressage so I got lots of practice helping her with freestyles and pony club events. I got hooked on the dressage side and competed in a lot of participant events for many years. In 2014 I decided to become "official" with Ron; he has taken to it really well, although I still love the jumping. I think it is because there is always something to work at with the dressage and you can always improve and learn more, the results are so rewarding.

Who is your biggest influence? The people that shine to me in the horse world are people like Steve Brady and the Double Dans. I love how they communicate and understand horses so much that their horses do anything for them. I also like Andrew McLean's way – his understanding of how the horse works is amazing! My favourite dressage rider would be Brett Parbery!



How could dressage in WA be improved? The one thing I think could improve dressage in WA is by encouraging more people to feel that they CAN join in at official dressage even if they are interested in other disciplines - it's fun, great training and everyone is very encouraging and friendly.

Masters of Dressage - Christoph Hess visits WA 4th-6th May 2016



Dressage Judges Taskforce is proud to be able to present a judges and coaches workshop followed by a Masterclass on Thursday 5th May at the Indoor arena SEC with Christoph Hess. Christoph Hess is an FEI 4* Judge in both dressage and eventing. Christoph points out that dressage is harmony and balance. His enthusiasm is directed at improving how our horses are trained and ridden.

The workshop will discuss riding, coaching and judging dressage and eventing horse and rider combinations. It will cover the training of the young horse with Christoph and how the horse develops through the levels. There will be an opportunity to talk to Christoph at the workshop and ask questions. Christoph has a keen eye and emphasises the need for the rider to work on their position to enhance the horse's performance. The Masterclass will include FEI eventing riders, FEI dressage riders, Young Horses, lateral work and the progression to flying changes.

Workshop: non-judges \$35, NOAS Judges and trainees \$30. Masterclass: non-judges \$50, NOAS judges and trainees \$45.

(EWA or Pony Club discounts may apply if sufficient numbers i.e. 8 or more pre bookings from a club)





Christoph Hess Judges Coaches Forum 5th May 3pm-5.30pm An Evening with Christoph Hess 5th May Master Class SEC 6.30pm

Contact elaine_greene@westnet.com.au



The dressage season is well under way and Judges have noted that there have been some encouraging scores recorded at all levels over the past few weeks. We have had several newcomers join the ranks of trainee judges this year and welcome them to the world at 'C'. They will be sitting in with judges and shadow judging throughout the next few months.

The eventing season is under way so we have decided to include an article written by Grand Prix rider and dressage Judge Judy Harvey and FEI Judge Nick Burton, former international eventing rider and British Team member. Nick is now an FEI International Judge and has officiated at the London Olympic Games. The article looks at judging the Event horse and the athleticism required from the horse in all phases of an Event. It's interesting reading and helpful to judges who perhaps aren't involved in eventing as a sport. We encourage all judges to accept invites to judge at eventing competition. There are plenty of super horse and rider combinations out there. It's a good opportunity to work closely with other officials such as Stewards and TDs.

Good Judging Practice for Eventing Competitions produced by Judy Harvey and Nick Burton

- 1. There is no difference whatsoever in the scale of training for the event horse from the dressage horse. You are still evaluating the training, basic paces, and presentation of a dressage test.
- 2. However in a Dressage Competition (with the exception of Team Events) the winner is the winner and the margin of the result is not critical. In eventing the dressage score is a platform from which the well-presented dressage test should gain an advantage in the other phases ahead. The margins are important and for this reason the whole range of the scale of marks should be used where appropriate.
- 3. Event horses have to jump and gallop; consequently they develop a different musculature to dressage horses. They will rarely be able to show the looseness characteristic of the Grand Prix horse and therefore their paces are unlikely to be as extravagant. This should be taken into consideration.
- 4. Event horses are very fit and sharp enough to run for their lives. Minor disobedience and keenness should not be punished too severely.
- 5. Arenas at events are often on unsuitable going and are not even or level. The going can deteriorate considerably between the first and last competitors. Horses should not be heavily penalised for a minor loss of rhythm, particularly if this occurs crossing a rutted centre line. Distractions such as close proximity to the show jumping and cross country should also be taken into account. Ask yourself "is it reasonable to expect anything better in these circumstances and environments". If a horse is presented showing good training and way of going and does cope with the environment then it should be rewarded with very high marks. Remember 10 is only excellent.
- 6. Bold accurate riding should be rewarded. But also remember to be tolerant at the lower levels where it is possible that riders will have had no dressage education whatsoever. Of course they should be marked fairly, but comments must still be constructive and understanding.
- 7. Your comments should always be made in a positive, helpful and understanding manner with an appreciation of the skills required to produce these all round athletes.

WA State Dressage Championships - Sponsorship Announcement

DWA is pleased to announce that the major sponsor for the 2016 State Dressage Championships is one of our regular and key partners, John Hughes. In addition to being the Platinum Sponsor of the event, John Hughes Victoria Park, has developed a special offer, details in the following pages. We are grateful for their ongoing support and we encourage our members to support the businesses which support our sport.

Further sponsorships are now being sought from past and new sponsors alike. There are several options for involvement from sponsorship of a single class up to two structured gold sponsorship packages with different promotional options attached to each. As in previous years, sponsors are offered complementary participation in the weekend's trade stands. This year we have a busy trade and exhibitor program planned to add excitement and activities to the event. Sponsorship queries are welcomed! We need support to make the State Championships a successful weekend.

Please phone Natalie 0407 796 986 or send an email for us to contact you (DWASponsorships@outlook.com). We are sure there is a sponsorship option to help run the event and to benefit your business!

John Hughes

Service 1300 853 579
Parts 1300 324 062
Sales 1300 799 060



Transitions Perpetual Trophy 2015

By Marian Semones



This Young Rider Trophy has been awarded each year since 2004 and is presented to the young rider, 21 years and under, that obtains the highest percentage score over the Official competition season. Some previous winners have been Darren Taylor, Katlin Hull, Kate Billings, Sophie Warren, Sally Mayall, Teagan Sutton and Fraser Bower (2 years in a row 2013/14).

The winner for 2015 is

JESSICA BARTLETT riding Phantom Database with a score of 74.783%

Jessica was presented with the Young Rider Trophy by Marjorie Radford, President of Transitions, at the club rally on Saturday 5th March 2016, together with a cash prize.

Congratulations to Jessica and Phantom Database.

L to R - Marjorie Radford, Jessica Bartlett and Jan Godwin (coach)



WESTERN AUSTRALIA

STATE DRESSAGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

May 7th-8th 2016





Arena Familiarisation (reference Section 3.7 and Annexure C of the 2016 EA Dressage Rules)

At its discretion, the Organising Committee (OC) of an Event may decide to allow competitiors designated times to ride around (or in) the competition arenas on the day of the Competition. These allocated times, and any specific conditions, are normally advised in the Conditions of Entry or at the time of the draw. Arena Familiarisation is to be supervised by a Steward or nominated Event Official.

The Steward/Official dictates the direction and pace of the arena familiarisation. Competitors are permitted to lead a horse in hand, however for safety and control reasons, it is requested that the horse is bridled and led off a bit in the horse's mouth. All horses must have their ID number clearly displayed, and competitiors are to be neatly attired in appropriate riding attire. Note: It is currently being discussed at FEI level as to whether unmounted handlers should wear a helmet at horse inspections, etc., though nothing has been formalised at this point in time.

The three snaffle bridles/nosebands pictured below are "Permitted" in Dressage



St Zaum Noseband

Micklem Bridle







The two double-cavesson nosebands pictured below are "Not Permitted" in Dressage





John Hughes in Victoria Park Your car buying destination



In support of the WA State Dressage Championships, John Hughes is offering \$1000 CASH BACK*

on all new and pre owned vehicles to Equestrian Federation Australia members and their families. Choose from our wide range of new vehicles, or over 2500 pre owned cars and commercials.

John Hughes

Contact Gary Fitch on 9415 0102

garyfitch@johnhughes.com.au

Meet Committee Member Stephanie Munro

Meet Stephanie. She's the Pony Representative as well as the Young and Junior Rider Representative (with Natalie Sakich). Stephanie definitely loves grey ponies and has forged a very successful career with Trapalanda Brigadeer. If you haven't seen their Christmas themed freestyle, you're missing out!



I started riding at the age of 3 on a 9 hh shetland pony called Fuzzypeg. She lived in a paddock at the bottom of the garden with a goat for company. It was with her that I lost my first tooth and had my first few falls. We started pony club in 2000 at Gidgegannup Horse & Pony Club which, although being far from home, was the only pony club with an enclosed arena with fences that she wouldn't squeeze beneath during my lessons. Fifteen years and four white ponies later, I have represented that same Pony Club successfully at State and National Championships.

After trying a lot of different disciplines, I settled on dressage in 2007. That same year my third grey pony, Kingsfred Aethon, and I qualified for the first National Interschools! Unfortunately, due to Equine Influenza, the event was cancelled but my ambition grew to one day represent WA. Our moment came four years and one pony later with Trapalanda Brigadeer, my current partner in crime! We bundled Marblz onto the truck to Victoria and were lucky enough to represent WA at both the National Pony Club Championships and also the National Interschool Championships on consecutive weekends. The former was characterised by record rainfall with arena pumping a daily occurrence and a very unhappy wet pony, and the latter a National title to take home.

Since then Marblz and I have been lucky to represent WA two more times, at home (where we won PCA National Senior Dressage Champion) and at the Australian Young Rider Championships in Queensland where we were awarded 3rd in the FEI Small Tour Championship. Marblz and I have been competing FEI Medium Tour for a year now. We are the only pony combination at this level in WA and are also the youngest. Nationally, we are one of approximately three pony combinations at FEI Medium Tour and above.

Working day-to-day with such an intelligent pony has taught me a lot. My first ride on him, back in 2010 was a bit of a struggle - our personalities clashed as attempted to find the holes in my riding abilities. What started with the intention of trot work ended with us sitting on the 4th turn of a walk pirouette. It is only with the strong support of my coach of 10 years, Dr Victoria Hamilton, that we have managed to get to where we are today.

Above – Stephanie and Fuzzypeg, right - Stephanie and Trapalanda Brigadeer representing WA







When I'm not in the saddle, I am studying Engineering and Business Law at UWA. I am the External Affairs Vice President of my faculty society and a UWA Student Guild Councillor. I am also a Rider Representative of my dressage club, the WA Dressage Young Riders Association (WADYRA).

My five-year partnership with Marblz has opened so many doors and has, undoubtedly, developed me as a person. Every time we enter an arena we have something to prove. The entire journey has been integral in my understanding of goal setting and influences me day-to-day in my studies.

Most importantly, I am so privileged to be on this journey with my best friend. From the beginning, I was only going to continue riding as long as I had fun, and I am currently having the time of my life.



Project Neon FEI Showcase 13th March 2016

By Melissa Emery
Photos by Rebecca De Vries and Paige King

I am so relieved that we named this event a showcase because seeing the combinations on the competition arena yesterday morning in the early light it gave me goosebumps...and at 7.30 am the showcase began.

I may be biased because the show is special to me but looking into the C-Quest and International arenas the horses looked amazing, the top boots looked shinier and the outfits looked smarter than ever before. No event is complete without its fair share of hurdles; however, we proceeded, proving that 38°C heat or a world bike race, which managed to close every intersection that led to the SEC from the east and south, would not stop WA's FEI horse and rider combinations from cantering down that centerline.

The competition was supported by our FEI riders with a record 42 entries and the spectators also appreciated the opportunity to watch the tests, turning up on the grassy banks of the C-Quest arena to settle in for a morning of dressage. The classes were well supported and the quality of WA dressage continues to improve with some fantastic scores achieved. Stephanie Spencer and the beautiful Redskin R survived a howling easterly to win the PSG followed closely by Sally Mayall and Hollingrove Sunburst, who also did a lovely test.

The Grand Prix was a highlight with Colin Chantler and Bonita sealing the win, followed closely by Tracy Spackman and AEA Benetton. Both were lovely tests and it is a tribute to these riders for reaching the pinnacle of the sport. The Intermediate A was won by Alison Davis and Aseduction who have only recently returned to WA from competing on the East coast, with second place going to Alinta Veenvliet and Luca who put together a super test.

Our Road to Rio hopeful, Sharon Jarvis, then entered the C-Quest on the beautiful Lord Larmarque. This lovely boy continues to grow in confidence every time he trots down the centerline and put together two wonderful tests. It was also fantastic to see Rebecca Tsouris and Santus back out in the competition arena competing in and winning the Inter 11. The Intermediate 1 was won by Beatrix Stewart and her beautiful Barrabadeen Class Act, with second place going to Nadine Herbert and Fleurette. As the temperature began climbing toward our predicted maximum, the Advanced class got underway. Liz Tollarzo did a lovely test to win, with Terrina Fairbrother and Abisha taking out second place. The Medium 4.2 was completed a little earlier in the day on the International arena and was won by Stephanie Spencer and Skywalker with a fantastic score of 72.564% with second place going to Terrina and Abisha with a score of 69.872%.

Our Project Neon FEI Showcase concluded with two tests from Sharon Jarvis on her mare Ceasy - what a way to finish such an amazing event. On behalf of the organisers of this event we would like to wish Sharon the best of luck on her Sydney trip. We hope the horses travel well and you fulfill your Rio dream.

FEI dressage in WA is alive and well and I would like to thank every single sponsor that contributed to this event no matter how large or small, your generosity was so appreciated.

- * Project Neon without you the event would not have occurred
- * John Hughes Jeep
- * Horserail
- * Anytime Deli Burswood for so kindly catering for our judges
- * Paige King for her wonderful photography
- * Kings Town Welsh Cobs
- * Arena Reflections
- * Yanchep Lagoon Café for refreshments for our volunteers
- * Horseland Midland
- * Request Equestrian and Rebecca DeVris for your photos and time
- * AVT (Applied Vocational Training)
- * Blue Chip Australia

To the wonderful volunteers that gave their time (the list is huge) but without you this show would not be possible; from the announcer, Val Mayger, to the pencillers, who never complained about the heat, the event Secretary - Sue Morgan, my right hand woman/steward - Janet Reid, the gear checkers, the runners to everyone a massive thank you.



the To event scorer, Pauline, you are wonderful and SO efficient. To the judges; PollyAnn Huntington, Lisa Baker (who I might add has supported every event of the series), Hazel Hikins and Margaret Thwaites, you are all sensational.

The most important aspect of the show was that there were many smiles, people laughing and it was a lovely relaxed atmosphere. It's so important for competitors to be able to have fun and this series certainly gave them the opportunity to do so.













Left top to bottom - Liz Tollarzo and Everton Park Jet Blauw D, Rebecca Tsouris and Santus, Sharon Jarvis and Ceasy, Right top to bottom - Eva Stewart and Rubern Sportivo, Sally Mayall and Hollingrove Sunburst



















Left top to bottom - Rebecca Tsouris winning the Inter II, Beatrix Stewart and BBD Class Act, Nadine Herbert and Fleurette, Jamie Bawden and Tollen Park Diva. Right top to bottom – Allie Helsemans and Ebendale Soprano, Terrina Fairbrother and Abisha, Stephanie Spencer and Redskin R, Melanie Nixon and Matavia Fisher King.



Gidgegannup Dressage Competition 26th March 2016

By Kai Schuler

The Gidgegannup Dressage Club held its popular, annual competition on Easter Saturday, the 26th of March 2016. Due to the ongoing capital works to improve the facilities at the Gidgegannup Showgrounds, this event was held at the State Equestrian Centre in Brigadoon for the first time.

Continuing the event's incorporation into the Masters Series competition, the event attracted nearly 150 rider entries from across the state, signing up to ride nearly 250 tests from Preliminary Level through to Grand Prix for both Participant and Competitor Equestrian Australia members.

Although some worrying weather forecasts predicted strong rain, storms and flash flooding, it turned out to be wet and wonderful! The four competition arenas were beautifully arranged across the grass, International and CQuest arenas and there was also a small trade village on the Presidents lawn. All day, the grounds were abuzz with riders, supporters, competitors and spectators alike.

Attracting Western Australia's most respected officials, everyone in attendance was treated to high class competition across all levels. The day's top class, the Grand Prix, was won by Tracy Spackman, riding AEA Benetton, with the other FEI level tests being won by Rebecca Tsouris (Inter II), Wendy Barker (Inter A), Beatrix Stewart (Inter I) and Stephanie Spencer (PSG).





The Preliminary to Advanced levels were all hotly contested and saw some outstanding horses and riding in all classes, including separate classes specifically offered for Pony competitors.

Special awards on the day were given for Highest Percentage Pony going to Kristen Macaulay riding Rox My Sox, Highest Percentage FEI going to Stephanie Spencer riding Redskin R and Highest Percentage by a Gidgegannup Dressage Club Member going to Chris Henderson and her horse Ferndale Sprinas Mystelle. These three awards were proudly presented by Bates Saddles.

A special OTTT award for Highest Percentage of an Off the Track Thoroughbred in the Competitor classes was won by Tracey Matthews on Ellison Park Panda and in the Participant Classes by Erika Pope on Seignorial Lad.

Once again, the Gidgegannup Dressage Club Competition was a fantastic event, supported by a hardworking committee, the club's members, organizers, supporters and sponsors.

For more information on the Gidgegannup Dressage Club and to access the full results of the competition, please visit www.gidgegannupdressageclub.com





Left - Melanie Nixon riding Matavia Fisher King - 3rd Advanced and 2nd Prix St George

Bottom left – Teagan Sutton and Amberville Rosenstein

Bottom right - Tracy Spackman riding AEA Benetton - Winner Grand Prix









Kristen Macauley riding Rox My Sox – Winner Participant Pony Preliminary & Novice – Highest Percentage Pony









ANYTIME 24 DELI BURSWOOD





























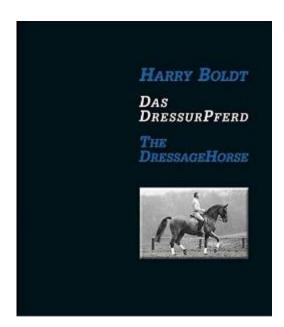






Dressage Riders' Forum





You're invited to attend the Dressage Riders' Forum to be held on Tuesday April 19 at Horseland Midland at 6:00pm.

The event will feature guest speaker Harry Boldt and there will be a special in-store promotion of a free gift with every purchase per customer and a door prize of a personally signed copy of "The Dressage Horse" by Harry Boldt.

If you have any questions for discussion at the Riders' Forum please feel free to submit them to the DWA Riders' Representative, Tracy Spackman or through the DWA webpage www.dressagewa.org

Please RSVP to Tracy Spackman on ptspackman@bigpond.com by 15th April.

www.dressagewa.org

