

Dressage WA Newsletter

AUGUST 2016

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It seems like not much has been happening in WA Dressage over the last month but rest assured that competition organisers are quietly working away to bring you great competitions in the near future.

In this edition we meet Melaineey Lee- Newland. Do you have a great idea for the newsletter? Contact us at www.dressagewa.org.

Message from the DWA Chair - Gill Botten

The news that WEG will no longer take place in Bromont, Canada in 2018 has been disappointing and hopefully another venue will be found in time for the concept of all the disciplines competing at one venue every four years to continue. I know that many dressage riders and supporters travel from WA to this event.

The preparations for the Masters Series Final, Penny Hill Park Rising Star and Horseland Young Horse competition on 10th September are gathering momentum and many riders have already qualified with good scores. Luciano D'Elia and Felicity Yuncken from Victoria are looking forward to judging here.

It is great to see the Midweek Dressage has a very full day of entries at the end of July and riders will be pleased the Project Neon FEI showcase series will be returning.

Vets are reporting a high number of colic and foot issues this month-both probably due to the excessive rainfall and cold weather we have been experiencing so hopefully not too many of you have been affected.

Remember to check the new rules that came into effect at the beginning of July and bear in mind there will be new compliance rules regarding helmets next year. DWA would like to welcome our new interim CEO at EA, Dwight Pedlow. I know we will all be supporting him. Happy riding.

As the horses wing their way to Rio, I thought this description of transporting horses by ship in 1906 was interesting as a quote for the month:

"The horse is not led aboard but is boxed on the quay, and then, by means of slings attached to semicircular iron bars placed equidistant above him and from the ends of his box, he is raised by the steam crane or derrick, and lifted aboard as deftly as might be a lady's bandbox!"

The Horse-its Treatment in Health and Disease. 1906. Ed. Prof J. Wortley Axe M.R.C.V.S. Volume 9. The Gresham Publishing Company. London.



Dressage Western Australia Committee Members

Chair - Gill Botten
Vice Chair – Tracy Spackman
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 - TBA

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 –Val
Mayger

DWA Newsletter - Suzanne Simons

Para Equestrian – Val Mayger

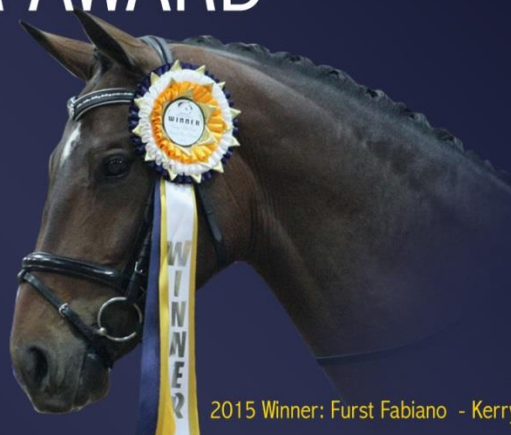
Young and Junior Rider Rep – Natalie
Sakich/Steph Munro

Dressage WA
Presents

16 PENNY HILL PARK RISING STAR AWARD

10th SEPTEMBER 2016
SEC

BEST NEWCOMER IN DRESSAGE FINALS



2015 Winner: Furst Fabiano - Kerry Day



Meet dressage rider Melaine Lee-Newland

Melaine and Joshua Brook Take That show that with perseverance and a slow but steady approach rehabilitating an injured dressage horse is possible. They are now on the cusp of breaking through to FEI but Melaine keeps a close eye on the physical wellbeing of her horse and trains accordingly. The success of this plan is evident in their results.



Tell us about Joshua Brook Take That.

Lute and I have been together for 4 1/2 years now. He is a 17.2 hh bay/brown Holsteiner by Stirling Lukas (Ludendorff) and Aquapak TB. He is a very young 16 year old who has an abundance of "character", but I adore him. He is a giant grumpy old man with a heart of gold; he loves a good scratch and his paddock buddy/life-long love Pollyanna.

It's taken quite a lot to get where we are, I first of all took him on as a lease but it was a toss-up between him and a

leggy chestnut hack (I am a closet hackie). Lute does occasionally turn a hoof to Show and Working Hunter classes, rather successfully too. I took him on to see how he would go, as he had what was supposed to be a career ending injury. He had torn his annular ligament in two places and split his tendon a couple of years before we met. He is my first horse at this level, or any level above preliminary actually. Prior to him I had only ever ridden a handful of tests at pony club when I was younger so it's been a steep learning curve but a fabulous experience.

The two key factors have really been patience and listening very closely to him. We developed stretching and warmup routines, and managed his workload, being very careful not to overdo it. He will always say when he is sore or struggling, and we have figured out together when he needs a few days or a few weeks off. This is heartbreaking when it happens in the middle of a competition season, but the odd scratching or lost entry fee is a small price to pay for such an amazing partner.

It's taken a lot of rehab and a lot of maintenance to get him here but he's just gone from strength to strength and is stronger than ever now. So if I ever seem overly happy at the end of a test even if it's not amazing, that is why. We had thought he would only ever go to novice, that he would simply be unable to perform the higher level moves or sustain the work required to compete at those levels. But now we are just about to go PSG and it's a dream come true, I know it sounds cheesy but I really do appreciate EVERY ride I get.

What has been the key to his training?

Slow and steady and trying to build 'Sydney Harbour Bridge' and get him strong over the back to make sure he uses himself properly. He is a BIG horse and we had to work hard in the beginning to get him to relax. He used to get quite bouncy and excited in warm up at competition and put a lot of pressure on his injury, so that was probably the most important thing early on.



Now every time he learns something new, you have to ask, then take him right back to basics, get him soft and really stepping under himself then ask again, he will try and try and try to do what you ask but can sometimes get a bit overwhelmed.

Our training had a bit of a hiatus in 2014 while I was pregnant with my daughter, I didn't stop riding at all but we didn't really progress. I will happily admit I rode the morning she was born but I was very sick for the entire duration and riding kept me going. She is now 18 months old so it takes some juggling to fit it all in. I am very blessed to have a wonderfully supportive husband and family who let me follow my dreams. Harper is also very patient and will often just sit in the pram while I have a lesson or do ground work with one of the horses. We have been very lucky to have a very easy and beautiful little girl.

What are your riding goals?

I would like to get to PSG, I doubt I'll push the big guy past that but that would be my dream. I have said that at every level past novice though so who knows. We are currently working on 4's and 3's, which is very exciting.

I am hoping we get another 2 years at this level before he retires, he will never be sold and will live a luxurious retirement with us. My goal after that is to bring a young one through the grades and hopefully ride a Grand Prix test one day.

Oh and to HOPEFULLY without being a crazy mum, to encourage Harper into dressage. I have dreams for her to own a Don Philino pony at some point!

How did you start out in riding and dressage?

I started riding lessons at 3 at Pony Points in Gosnells many moons ago, got my first pony 'Misty' at 4 for Christmas. I then did show horse for many years on some superb Thorne Park ponies with the highlight of those years being my show Galloway Marapona Wind in the Willows who went to the National Show Horse Championships. I had lessons with Margaret Gollagher during these years and will always remember getting the opportunity to ride her beautiful Floydd a few times. I think that gave me a little bit of a taste for dressage.

I moved to England for 5 years so horses largely took a hiatus. When I moved home I got a little TB mare who I started doing Swan Valley Dressage with and when it became apparent she was not even remotely interested in dressage I started looking. Lute actually belonged to a good friend who lives down south and I am thankful every day she decided to let me have a go with him.

Who is your greatest influence.

My biggest direct influences since getting Lute would have to be my coach, Judi Kopanica, whom Kelly Brown introduced me to. She has been amazing and has encouraged me to step out of my comfort zone on a regular basis. And definitely Kelly who since she started agisting with us 4 years ago. She has been my partner in dressage. We obsess together about techniques, training, events and riders. I'm pretty sure I'd still be plodding around in Novice if it wasn't for these two.

My other influences would have to be Brett Parbery, I just love watching him ride as he is quiet and kind. Carl Hester is amazing. And Edward Gal, I remember watching his performance with Totilas at Olympia in 2008 and





getting goosebumps. I love reading Dr Kerry Mack's articles on Equestrian Life and was lucky enough to have a lesson through my great club Perth Dressage recently.

How could dressage in WA be improved?

Well I think that a great deal has been done in recent years to improve the training of judges in WA. I recently attended a seminar with the fabulous Wendy Barker who I also see for lessons when I can, she is such an amazing wealth of international knowledge and experience. I think we need to all take the time to listen to people like this, and some of the amazing experience we have here in our own backyard.



Judges Taskforce ran an evening with Harry Boldt recently and we were sitting watching wondering, why haven't we been listening to this man speak for the last 10 years! I know that private clinics are held but I am loving these new open forums to give the 'little guys' a chance to be included in these events and learn from our very own local legends.

I read something recently that I think more people need to heed – 'before you complain, have you put your hand up to volunteer yet?' If you have never run an event, the work that goes into them is phenomenal. Everyone pitching in and helping out is the lifeblood of a community like ours, and every effort is important and appreciated, even if it's just 15 minutes packing up an arena. So make sure you show up for your duties and help out if you can, it does not go unnoticed!

Dressage WA
Presents

16 MASTER SERIES GRAND FINAL

10th SEPTEMBER 2016
SEC

BEST IN THE WEST DRESSAGE



Prelim - Grand Prix



PROJECT NEON



2016 PROJECT NEON FEI SHOWCASE SERIES

16TH OCTOBER 2016
27TH NOVEMBER 2016



PRESENTED BY DRESSAGE WESTERN AUSTRALIA
WWW.DRESSAGEWA.ORG



Steward's Corner

By Janet Reid

Spur Rule Update

Please note that in the latest edition (Version 12) of Equestrian Australia's Equipment Annexure, the small sharp segmented rowel has been confirmed as "not permitted" for any design of spur worn in dressage competitions.



Small sharp segmented rowel "not permitted"



Blunt/smooth to touch rotating daisy rowel "permitted"



Note to Pony Riders

Rule 1.15.7 – The Height of a "Pony" must not exceed 149cm with shoes on, or 148cm without shoes.

Please remember that spurs worn by Pony Riders (of any age) must not exceed 4cm in length – this is measured from the back of the boot to the tip of the spur (including the rowel if used).

How to be eliminated, or receive penalty points, for incorrect gear or attire

For a complete listing, refer to Section 2 and Annexure G of the EA Dressage Rules dated 1 July 2016

Elimination

- Wearing spurs that point inwards or upwards, or spurs that are not-permitted.
- Carrying a whip that exceeds the permitted maximum length (100cms for Ponies and 120cm for Horses).
- Incorrect size, or types, of bits.
- Not wearing a noseband, or wearing more than one noseband, or wearing a not-permitted noseband.
- Wearing a snaffle bridle in Advanced and above tests.

Deduction of 2 Penalty Points (per Judge)

- Not wearing gloves (*exemption certificate needs to be provided to the OC\Steward\Judge*).
- Short boots and gaiters that are not the same colour.
- Saddle or bridle that is not black or brown.
- Horse wearing bell boots, bandages, or protective boots in the space around the arena.
- Horse wearing bell boots, bandages, or protective boots in the arena.



"Young" Pony and Horse Competitions

"Official" Young Pony and Young Horse Competitions are a series conducted throughout Australia composed of qualifying competitions, and an Australian title. Following is a brief "Summary" of how these Events are run.

- The birth date for Ponies and Horses is at 1 August, and the age groups are 4, 5, and 6 year old.
- Riders must turn 12 years of age or over in the calendar year of competition.
- Young Pony and Young Horse Competitions do not attract grading points.
- All Young Pony and Young Horse dressage tests, and score sheets, are available from the EA website.
- Horses are judged on walk (10), trot (10), canter (10), rideability (10), and overall impression as a future dressage horse (10) including standard of training on the basis of the Training Scale.
- In principle, the Competition will consist of one mandatory round at Qualifiers, and two mandatory rounds at State Championships, and Australian Young Horse Championships.
- For further information and rules on Young Pony and Young Horse Competitions, refer to Section 5 of the EA Dressage Rules dated 1 July 2016.

Note: Event Organisers may decide to run an "Unofficial" or "Non-Qualifying" Competition and to adjust the format (e.g. possibly only one round; standard EA tests; inclusion of non-EA registered horses, etc). The Conditions of Entry to such an Event should be read carefully to ensure there is a clear understanding whether results may or may not qualify to enter an "Official" State or National Competition.



Crossed Nosebands

(Grackle, Mexican, Figure of 8)

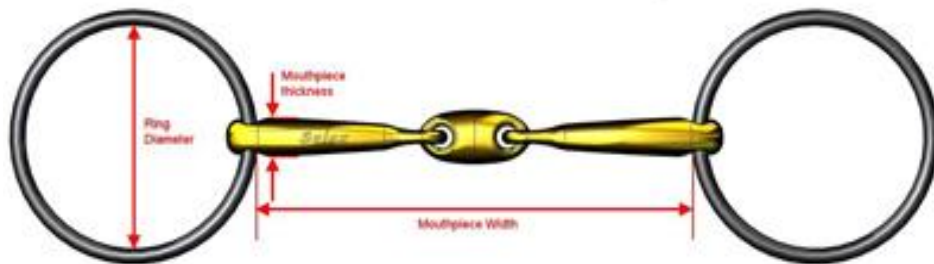
are **"not permitted"** in
Young Pony or Young Horse Competitions.

Snaffle bridle to be worn.

The minimum diameter thickness
of the mouth piece must be at least:

10mm for Ponies

14mm for Horses



The diameter thickness is measured at the widest part of the mouth-piece near the bit ring (or fixed cheek)
(diagram courtesy of BitBank Australia and Neue Schule)



You're invited to attend the Dressage Riders' Forum to be held
on Saturday 6th August in conjunction with the Henty Winter
Dressage Championships

The forum will be chaired by Kim Thomas with special guest Maria
Schwennesen

Time: 5:00pm for 5:15pm start, until 6:00pm
Venue: Dardenup Equestrian Centre, Garvey Road, Dardenup WA

Nibbles provided.

RSVPs and questions to: dwaridersforum@gmail.com

(note: questions may be forwarded and read 'anonymously')



From The Judges Box

By Elaine Greene

Q : When do I know my horse is ready to compete at the next level in dressage?

A : This is a question that I am often asked as a coach and a judge.

From the coaching point of view, the training has to be consistent and the foundations well established, based on the training scale (Rhythm, Suppleness, Contact, Impulsion, Straightness and Collection). New skills have to be introduced in a way that the horse can understand step by step, preferably through a series of exercises that the horse can become familiar with.

As you progress up the levels, the horse becomes stronger and can maintain self-carriage throughout his work. Each dressage test introduces new exercises in a progressive way that builds on previous levels. This means that no short cuts can be taken otherwise the quality of the work may be compromised. Keep the horse confident and keen, giving him a variety of work to keep him forward and loose over the back.

It's also imperative that your horse is ready mentally as well as physically to progress in this training. Introducing new work should always be done alongside some familiar and simple training exercises to maintain confidence.

From the judge's point of view, there should be no weak areas. At home the horse should be working to a 7 for each movement and often an 8 for the movements he can do well, such as centerline halt.

He should be able to maintain impulsion within all trot and canter work, especially lateral work where required. He should be adjustable within the pace with clear transitions. Attention should be paid to the small details.

A rider should not take a horse to the next level unless they know the horse is willingly confident to tackle each question asked. It is a joy to watch any horse that finds the work easy and the judge can give a series of good marks. We all like to see the high percentage on the board as that tells us that the training is correct and the horse and rider are a happy partnership.

So in summary, there is no single answer for this; it depends on you and your horse. However, the old adage remains true, that ideally your horse should be confidently working at home one level above your competition level to ensure you have all the tools you need to produce a top test.



You're invited to attend the Dressage Riders' Forum to be held
on Tuesday 23rd August at Horseland Midland at 6:00pm

We have guest speaker Michelle James from Penny Hill Park Warmblood Stud giving a talk on
her stud and the dressage breeding programme.

Date: Tuesday 23rd August
Time: 6:00pm for a 6:30pm start until 8:00pm
Venue: Horseland Midland

Questions prior and RSVPs can be emailed to ptspackman@bigpond.com

<http://www.dressagewa.org/dressage-riders-forum.html>
Please RSVP to Tracy Spackman on ptspackman@bigpond.com by 15th April.

