

Dressage WA Newsletter

JUNE 2016

- 1 Message from the DWA Chair
- 2 2016 State Dressage Championships
- 4 Freestyle night showcases some of our best
- 6 Meet the Champions
- 17 DWA Committee Members
- 18 Steward's Corner
- 20 Masters of Dressage – Christoph Hess and Harry Boldt

What a month – State Dressage Championships and Masters of Dressage with Christoph Hess and Harry Boldt! Dressage in WA is booming but we still need more volunteers to help run competitions. If you think you have what it takes or have some time to help please contact us at DWA.

In this edition we meet the Champions from the WA State Dressage Championships. Would you like to add something to the newsletter? Contact us at www.dressagewa.org.

Message from the DWA Chair - Gill Botten

I do hope everyone enjoyed the WA State Dressage Championships-it had a great atmosphere and congratulations to all those who rode. Our Interstate judges were most complimentary. Many thanks to all those who worked tirelessly all weekend to make it such a success and especially to Dwight Pedlow who oversaw the whole competition with great patience. Val Mayger has written a comprehensive report that appears later in the newsletter.

The Masterclass with Christoph Hess proved very successful, despite the unavoidable date change.

We are now all looking forward to the Masters Series Final and Penny Hill Park Young Horse competitions in September.

It was made clear at the recent Riders' Forum that riders would support more competitions in WA. If there are any clubs who are thinking of some extra competitions it would be appreciated by riders of all levels.

Thought for the month:

"Character, eagerness to work and to co-operate are the most important qualities in a good dressage horse"

Anky-the ambition, determination and talent of Anky Van Grunsven. 1994. La Riviere & Voorhoeve, the Netherlands

Gill Botten (Chair DWA)

2016 WA

State Dressage Championships

May 7th- 8th 2016

John Hughes



2016 WA State Dressage Championships

By Val Mayger



The success of the John Hughes State Dressage Championships was, I believe, the result of enthusiastic and great leadership, which produced an amazing Team.

Dwight Pedlow, who chaired the Working Party, set a fantastic example and did an incredible amount of work which resulted in a happy group of people who gave their utmost to make the event succeed.

Judging by the number of emails from competitors thanking us, congratulating us and commenting on the friendly atmosphere of the event, we must have got something right.

I believe having a nominated charity is an excellent idea and definitely assists in raising sponsorship for the event and awareness for the charity concerned. Hopefully, we will have a reasonable donation to make to Conquer Cystic Fibrosis and Cystic Fibrosis WA.

Some Statistics that are Worth Noting – Eighty four entries were received in the Pony Tests and thirty seven entries were received in the FEI tests. Pony Dressage is certainly on a roll here in WA and it is exciting to see the number in the FEI tests growing. In all, over four hundred and fifty tests were ridden over the weekend and ninety seven of these tests were ridden by Junior or Young riders – another exciting growth.

Recently, a submission was made to the EWA Board by the DWA Committee to continue to allow Ponies to compete in their own dedicated classes and not be included in Open classes with horses. The Board agreed to this and their decision proved to be valid, with the number of ponies entered in the Championships.

Apart from our generous Naming Sponsor, John Hughes and Gold Sponsors, Horseland and Bates Saddles we had twenty seven more sponsors, who supported our Championships. Many of these have supported dressage for many years and we appreciate their loyalty but some were new to Dressage and Equestrian sport and we certainly hope that they will become regular sponsors.

In addition to running a well organised event, we had a number of areas we wanted to address–



A Friendly Atmosphere - a surprising number of young competitors and participant competitors commented on the friendly atmosphere and that they really felt a part of the event. Marjory Stanger and Joanna Dale did a marvellous job, upstairs – answering questions and looking after judges and writers and definitely creating a very happy and friendly atmosphere.

Scoring – getting results out in a timely fashion. We had a lot of good feedback about the scoring. The location of the scoreboard was appreciated, as was the speed of calculation. The riders and families also liked the progressive scoring and regular updates and the broadcasting of progressive scores. Tatiana Pedlow had the scoring room fairly humming!

Presentations - Two presentations were held each day and the times were set and in the programme. Joanna Dale was in charge of setting up for each presentation and had everything running like clockwork. A decision was made on Sunday to hold all presentations upstairs in the SEC, as it had proved too cumbersome to get everything down to the Trade Hub for each presentation.

The scorers did a brilliant job calculating the Perpetual Trophies and Champions and the Presentations went off without a hitch. We had a good attendance at the final presentations with a number of sponsors there to present.

Trade Hub - Tracy Spackman and Natalie Coulson had planned the bump in and bump out with military precision and what could have been a nightmare, ran very smoothly and caused very little disruption. We had many favourable comments on the Trade Hub and the variety of food vans. The Interactive Booth proved popular and Natalie Coulson had set up some interesting demonstrations.

Saturday Night - feedback from sponsors and ticket holders was good. The Freestyles were of a high standard and the entertainment that Liz Tollarzo had organised for us was a great success. Judging by the cheers and clapping, everyone was really enjoying the night.

Sponsorship – Natalie Coulson managed to get all classes sponsored, which must be a record. She was able to procure cash in most cases, which certainly helps. She was complimented, by a leading sponsor, on the presentation of her Sponsorship Package.

Programme – Deborah Ambrosini obtained the services of a colleague to do the layout of the programme. She also, with Dinah, kept an eye on our expenditure.

Promotion – the promotion of the event was well done by Rebecca de Vries and competitors and interested parties were kept well informed by regular postings on Facebook. Of course, Darren Dawes' promo video on Facebook was viewed by many and had many 'likes' and comments and much laughter!

Polo Shirts – The shirts sold well and were appreciated as gifts. Suzanne Simons, in between her tests, proved to be a great sales person – you've missed your calling Suzanne!

Judges – We had three delightful Eastern States Judges – Liz Coe, Wendy Hunt and Maria Schwennesen - who worked extremely hard judging, mentoring and examining all weekend. Elaine Greene made sure that they judged at all levels which the competitors really appreciated. Our own Western Australian judges also worked extremely hard, throughout the event. Our visiting judges were very complimentary of our Championships.

Rugs – the beautifully finished summer rugs were well received – thanks to Deborah Ambrosini, who sourced these for us.

Draw – this was no easy task and Dwight Pedlow, Dinah Fleming, Gill Botten and Elaine Greene spent many hours accommodating riders, where they could. The end result was relatively stress free for most of us. It becomes difficult when you have riders riding a number of different horses in different classes.

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State Dressage Championships

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Bates Saddle – a silent auction was run for the saddle, donated by Bates and raised \$2,300. We were very grateful to Bates for their support.

Technical Delegate and Chief Steward – Zoe Harrison and Janet Reid made sure that the rules were adhered to and that nothing would interrupt the performances of the riders and their horses. They were meticulous in carrying out their duties.

Photographer – The official photographer for the Championships was RedFoto (www.redfoto.com.au). The Working Party requested Expressions of Interest from interested photographers, asking that they meet certain requirements. Red was the successful applicant and, as usual, was dependable and cooperative at all times.

Finally, we had some fantastic competition over the weekend, with excellent tests being ridden in all levels. We had happy competitors, which makes life much easier and I think we had pretty happy sponsors.

The Working Party is indebted to all those who volunteered and helped over the weekend – without these people everything grinds to a halt.

I would like to pay tribute to the members of the Working Party. I've worked with many similar groups who were working to run important events and this group of people was a pleasure to work with and their determination to produce the best possible result was well rewarded.

Freestyle night showcases some of our best

By Leanne Pitcher, photos by Rebecca De Vries



Spectators at the State Dressage Championships welcomed the return of the popular freestyle program on Saturday night, showcasing some of our top horse and rider combinations.

The VIP tables on the SEC balcony were packed with supporters enjoying canapés and bubbles while others chose to avail themselves of the many food choices on the President's Lawn and enjoy the spectacle from the stands.

The evening started with the Bates Saddlery Advanced freestyle, which kicked off with two young riders from the 2016 Dressage Squad. Jessica Bartlett and Penley Geometric delivered a rhythmical performance to a medley of Adele tunes which perfectly matched the pony's paces. They showed some very active flying changes and also displayed a high degree of technical difficulty by including shoulder-in on the centre line in the freestyle pattern. In a very controlled performance that showed incredible adjustability, Kjersti Grov and the rather spectacular black gelding Kinnordy Rheingold demonstrated some wonderful extended trot and canter pirouettes. The modern sax-based canter music complemented the gelding's paces and he maintained an open, relaxed outline throughout the test. The final test in this class was ridden by Melanie Nixon on Matavia Fisher King, to a medley of tunes reminiscent of the 1920s and the Great Gatsby era. Her handsome mount displayed lots of expression in his movement and the walk was clearly on the beat. Melanie also showed some inventive use of the arena, performing a challenging extended canter on the three-

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State Dressage Championships

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quarter line in each direction. This class was won by Kjersti with a score of 68.812%.

The Performance Physiotherapy Inter II class started with the elegant combination of Suzanne Simons and Foxwood Whirlwind, who displayed some really good passage steps but had some unfortunate mistakes in the tempi changes. Colin Chantler's mount, Bonita, gave her all and demonstrated some excellent one-tempi changes and Rebecca Tsouris and Santus showed us some impressive extended canter and canter half-pass. Colin took out this class with a score of 61.316%.

Tracey Spackman was the only competitor in the Grand Prix freestyle, but both she and the audience appeared very happy with AEA Benetton's performance to a dramatic musical medley. Her test showed a high degree of difficulty with extended canter straight to pirouette and some lovely loose and obedient flying changes, and she was rewarded with a score of 65.458%.

Horseland sponsored the Intermediate Freestyle, which was contested by three riders. After a tentative start outside the arena, Nadine Herbert and Fleurette gave an exciting performance to an orchestral medley of Adele tunes, challenging herself by including canter loops with three-times changes. Terrina Fairbrother and Savio H danced through the test to a whimsical medley of popular movie tunes, showing some beautiful extended trot, clean changes and wonderful fluidity and obedience. The final rider was Stephanie Munro on her ever-reliable pony Trapalanda Brigadeer, who delivered a very obliging performance to a jolly Christmas medley. Stephanie's three-tempi changes, canter pirouettes and extended walk were particularly impressive. First place in this class went to Terrina with 67.333%.



Our final rider for the evening was Sharon Jarvis on the stunning mare Ceasy, who gave spectators a sneak peak of the PE Grade 3 Freestyle she hopes to perform at the Rio Paralympics (subject to team selection). This mare is very light on her feet and she appeared to dance to Sharon's lighthearted musical selection. Sharon and Ceasy maintained a lovely rhythm and showed great trot extension and flowing shoulder-ins to score a very impressive 73.5%. We wish them all the best in their quest for Olympic selection.

In addition to the formal classes, spectators were also treated to two very entertaining displays. Rebecca Desmond, in a red Spanish dress on the grey Andalusian Quiebro, demonstrated some fabulous



Spanish walk, passage and piaffe and Perth farrier Gary Woolaway concluded the night by showing off some great flying changes and spins in his hilarious interpretation of a dressage test on a reining horse.

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State Dressage Championships

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Meet the Champions

Photos by Redfoto

Champion Preliminary

Marjorie Radford and Felice De Jeu

*KWPN by Belissimo M, out of a Don Romantic/ Contango mare
dark chestnut gelding, 17.2 hh, 6 year old*



"His concentration was much better. The transitions, frame and rhythm came together especially in the canter work. I'd like to improve the balance and strength in the medium trot work. My goal is to go as far as possible and enjoy the journey. To keep him happy and soft and enjoying his work." Marjory is coached by Chris Sharpe and sponsored by Horseland Maddington.

This championship was sponsored by

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Champion Preliminary Young Rider/Junior

Lily Hackett riding Kinnordy Galaxis

*WB by Gymnastic Star
bay mare, 17.1 hh, 9 year old*

"My highlights were placing top 10 in both tests. The State Championships were her third outing with me and she has now done 8 official tests and 10 total in her career. I need to improve my halts. And my goal is to get to FEI level." Lily is coached by Christine Thompson, Kirsten Twining and Sonja Johnson.



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Champion Preliminary Pony

Colleen Jackson and Pav Nespresso

*German Riding Pony
brown stallion, 14.2 hh, 5 year old*



"My goal is to continue training for novice and elementary. He has exceeded our expectations with his first year in Australia." Colleen is coached by Sally-Leigh Woods.

This championship was sponsored by

Bindoon
Tractors Pty Ltd

Champion Preliminary Pony Young Rider/Junior

Emilia Forrest riding Oakover Too Much Chatter

*Australian pony part welsh
Grey gelding, 13.1 ½ hh, 9 year old*

"Chatty was really relaxed and gave me a wonderful ride but I need to be more accurate. My goal is to ride a medium dressage test." Emilia is coached by Anna Johnson, Judy Kaponika.



2016 WA

State Dressage Championships

May 7th- 8th 2016



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Champion Preliminary and Novice Participant and Preliminary and Novice Participant Young Rider/Junior

Isobel Reeve and Kenwyn Uno-Who

*Thoroughbred by Aly Kingston out of Beacon Queen
chestnut gelding, 15.3 hh, 7 year old*



"I'd like to improve my posture and fitness and my goal is to do elementary later this year". Isobel is coached by Liza Denman-Dawson who bred Kenwyn Uno-Who

This championship was sponsored by
Trindall Equestrian Services and Valley Equine Veterinary Centre



Champion Novice

Kerry Day and Furst Fabriano

*Westphalian
bay gelding, 17 hh, 6 year old*

"The 2.3 was the highlight with a number of 8.5's and a 76% from one judge. Really happy with his connection in the stretching components of both tests with great marks from all judges. We need to improve on our corners! We have been working in a large unmarked arena at home and have not been using the corners to their full potential in training. From here, we will be working on more collection with the aim of Elementary starts at the end of this year." Kerry is coached by Judy Weber.

This championship was sponsored by



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State Dressage Championships

May 7th- 8th 2016



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Champion Novice and Elementary Pony

Kristina Suiter and BooHill Bond 24 (owned by Angela Kendall)

*Cob Welsh D by Chapel House Black Magic out of Acheron Nimue
brown gelding, 14.2 hh, 6 year old*



"We are a new combination so we are just working on working together. Having two young dressage horses, we are just working quietly at each level, with gymnastic work. My goal is to have more successes like this! I would like to think both mounts will later take me through to FEI." Kristina is coached by Di Jenkyn and Christine Thompson

This championship was sponsored by



Champion Novice Pony Young Rider/Junior

Tayla Heath riding Maraahn El Shamar

*Arab x Welsh by Cranston Park Khaan
palomino gelding 14 hh, 7 year old*

"Test highlights would have to be the novice 2:3 with his leg yields and his canter work. Aspects to improve on is making sure to ride every movement accurately and to continue to score higher each time we compete and as we move up the levels. Goals for the future would be to make it to FEI level with Shamar and to represent WA. My ultimate goal is to one day compete successfully at an international level and represent my country." Tayla is coached by Alison Lee.





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Cystic Fibrosis**Champion Novice Young Rider/ Junior****Tyla Schou riding Dyrring Park Stanmore***Trakehner x Thoroughbred (Saaleck – Yellow Rain)
chestnut gelding, 16.3 hh, 7 year old*

"I rode the Novice 2.2 and 2.3 and I was really happy with both tests and had him more uphill and he felt amazing. After riding those two tests he has shown that he can carry himself and the trot work has become a lot more suspended. I will continue to improve on Stan's trot work which I think has now become so much better and will continue to get his canter work more uphill. We have received a WA Gold Medal for the Preliminary and are one test away from getting our WA Gold Medal for the Novice." Tyla is coached by Deborah Spencer, Nadine Merewether and Stephanie Spencer and is sponsored by Cash Generator.

**Champion Elementary****Steph Spencer and K'Dale Mr Darcy (owned by Denise Palmbachs)***By Royal Oak out of a Cleveland Bay mare Ballantyne Brunette
bay gelding 16.2 hh, 7year old*

"Highlight would be the way Darcy stepped up in the 3.3 and felt like he really enjoyed what he was doing. I'd like to improve the thoroughness and expression throughout the test and to continue the work up the levels and have fun along the way." Steph is coached by Nadine Mereweather and sponsored by Spooks, Horseland Midland, Equestricare, Saddlefit Australia, Horsemate Bedding, Ceva-Nature Vet, Equi-trek Perth

This championship was sponsored by

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Champion Elementary Young Rider/Junior

Chloe Moon and Donnington

*Warmblood by Don Cavallo (Han) out of TB Mare.
Brown gelding, 16.1 hh, 11 year old*

My highlight was placing 5th in the 3.3 and 7th in the 3.2. My horse is on the comeback trail after fracturing his pedal bone in a freak accident in December 2015, then getting infected and having to undergo an operation to remove infected bone. He is just regaining his fitness and strength and now we just need flying changes! My goal is to be included on the State Young Rider Squad and to move on to Medium and Advanced with Donnington and in the future to compete at Grand Prix of course." Chloe is coached by Katrin Kuentler



Champion Elementary Pony Young Rider/ Junior

Ria Donnelly and Karma Park Toy Story

*Riding Pony x Welsh
Chestnut gelding, 8 year old*



"I loved the great turn out of quality ponies. The canter work was my strong points in the elementary tests. I'd like to improve the softness though the neck and my goal is to ride at the Olympic Games and at the World Equestrian Games." Ria is coached by Tyana Lawless

2016 WA

State Dressage Championships

May 7th- 8th 2016



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Champion Medium

Tahlia Piper and Blackall Park 007

*Warmblood by Lanthan (dec) / Lombard, out of Blackall Park Willow
grey gelding, 17.1 hh, 9 year old*

We competed in the Medium 4.2 where we scored 8's for our half passes left, something I have never achieved before. I've never ridden the Medium 4.3 but I thoroughly enjoyed riding this test, it flows nicely and was lots of fun! We have so much to improve on as we are very green at medium level. My main focus is to continue working towards being calm and relaxed at home as he is out. My goal would be to get us to Grand Prix level but I think that is every riders dream. Bondie is the first horse I have had since a yearling and trained myself so every step in the journey is exciting and unknown." Tahlia is coached by Liz Tollarzo and Lone Joergensen.

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Champion Medium Pony and Champion Pony Medium Young Rider/ Junior

Eliza Hebiton and Lets Rumba Ruby

*Arabian Welsh pony by Ruby Park Fortune
chestnut mare, 14.1 hh, 11 year old*



"Our Saturday Medium test was quite nice and I can feel that the consistency is starting to develop with every test. The Sunday's test had a clear improvement from the previous day bringing our scores up with better entries (8s) and a more regular connection in trot, canter and most visibly the walk. The 4.3 had some of our best changes that we have ridden in the competition arena. Ruby and myself need to improve on our suppleness in canter. This will help set up the difficult test movements better and keeping connection in the collected movements more relaxed and fluent. I plan to continue training and traveling to Germany to broaden my knowledge and experience." Eliza is coached by Ron Paterson and sponsored by Geraldton Stockfeeds.

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May 7th- 8th 2016



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Champion Medium and Advanced Young Rider /Junior

Kjersti Grov and Kinnordy Rheingold

*Hanoverian by Riverdance out of Wolgagold
bay mare, 16 hh, 13 year old*



On Saturday I had three tests, I rode the 4.2 and 5.2 and Advanced Freestyle. My favourite test was my freestyle, I enjoyed my music and to win the class was awesome. I loved riding the 5.3, I was so pleased I got all the elements, changes and pirouettes and was so happy with how Rheiny performed. It was only the second time I have ridden the 5.3, so I was extremely proud. I need to use more half halts to prepare better for each movement. I would like to compete as high as I can in FEI competition. The ultimate would be to train and ride Rheiny in a Grand Prix test." Kjersti is coached by Colin Chantler, Nadine Herbert and Di Jenkyns and is sponsored by Anitone.

Champion Advanced

Judy Weber and Bello Gallico

*Westphalian
Chestnut gelding, 16.2 hh, 8 year old*

"Highlights were winning the 5.2 and the 5.3. My goals are to travel east next year and to get to the Grand Prix." Judy is coached by Ricky MacMillan and Harry Boldt and sponsored by Valley Equine Centre, Valentine Equine, Backyards to Barnyards and Roosli Saddles Australia.

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Champion Advanced Pony

Jessica Bartlett and Penley Geometric

Part Welsh

bay gelding, 14 hh, 14 year old

"Saturdays achievements were winning the Advanced 5.2 with 63% and getting 3rd in the Advanced Freestyle. Improvements we need to make are getting more collection in each pace and also better submission and suppleness in the lateral movements. My goal with Rex is to compete Small Tour and our long term goal is compete in Grand Prix." Jessica is coached by Jan Godwin and David Shoobridge and is sponsored by Combined Farriers and Combined Supplies.

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Champion Small Tour

Steph Spencer and Redskin R

Regardez Moi/Jive Magic

Liver chestnut gelding, 17.1hh, 8 year old



"I rode the Inter 1 mistake free which was the goal! I'd like to improve the Relaxation in the ring. My goal is the extremely difficult task of getting what I can get at home, in the ring! To improve his expression and relaxation in the test is also on the to do list!" Steph is coached by Nadine Mereweather and sponsored by Spooks, Horseland Midland, Equestricare, Saddlefit Australia, Horsemate Bedding, Ceva-Nature Vet, Equi-trek Perth.

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2016 WA

State Dressage Championships

May 7th- 8th 2016



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Champion Medium Tour

Hannie Byrne and Elouera Quixote

*KWPN by Purioso (KWPN) out of Elouera Fruition (BWS Figaro x Lucano imp)
chestnut stallion, 16.2 hh, 17 year old*

"My highlights in the Inter A were the half passes, transitions but the highlights in the Inter B were the willingness to move forward and responsiveness to the aids. Better in balance and more engaged in this test but still some silly rider errors. Lots to improve, the suppleness through the poll and the self carriage. The rider focus and better preparation for the movements in the test. My goal is to Improve strength and balance and the Grand Prix." Hannie is coached by Harry Boldt

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Champion Large Tour

Colin Chantler and Bonita

*warmblood by Grand Kavalier
chestnut mare, 16.1/2 hh, 12 year old*



"This was the first time I had ridden the Inter11 and the hardest thing was having Bonita in the right type of canter to ensure she got the two and one tempi changes. These are on the other rein than they are in the GP test. She nailed them both. We rode our 1st GP at a state championships and Bonita is only new to this level having only done three GP tests before. I was very pleased with the way she handled it all. We both need to get more experience at this level and build strength for the collected work. My goal is to continue to improve at this level. We are looking forward to having a few years that we don't need to train any new movements and just improve what we are doing." Colin is coached by Harry Bolt and sponsored by Saddles Plus

Byford.

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Para Equestrian Championship

Sharon Jarvis and Ceasy

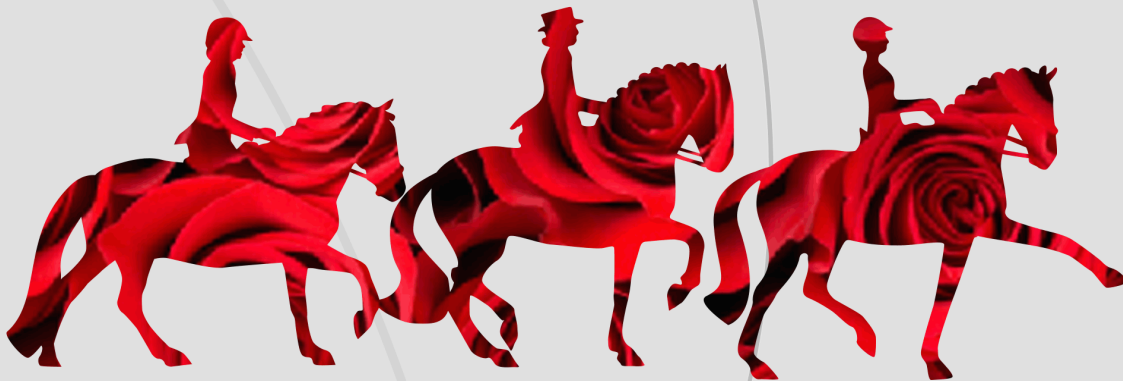
*Osmium/Ferro/Jazz KWPN
black mare, 17 hh, 9 year old*

I rode the FEI Para-Equestrian Team Test Grade III and the FEI Para-Equestrian Grade III Freestyle, The Freestyle was a highlight, I really enjoyed the ride, she was calm and focused on me. I rode the FEI Para-Equestrian Individual Championship Test Grade III and the best thing about this test was that she went into the arena that the day before she found scary and she remained with me and performed well. There is always lots that can be improved, always in the pursuit of perfection. My goal for the future is to stay consistently scoring over 70% and to reproduce these scores at the Paralympics in Rio." Sharon is coached by Rozzie Ryan and sponsored by Brookleigh Equestrian Estate, Pryde's EasiFeed, Saddles Plus, Horsemate Stable Bedding, CADDs Group, Westcoast Castle Equestrian, Oakford Equine Hospital, Double Up Panels, Cema Services, WAIS, Wally Foreman Foundation and Prime Organics.



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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

www.dressagewa.org

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Steward's Corner

By Janet Reid

Over the last month, many of you will have seen notifications from Equestrian Australia (EA) on the tightness of nosebands – these notifications are reproduced below. You are all encouraged to read and understand the firm stance from EA that the “welfare of the horse is paramount above all other considerations”.

Nosebands in Equestrian Sport – EA Position Statement (11 May 2016)

Equestrian Australia (EA) response to an ABC Lateline story which aired on 10 May 2016 on the use of nosebands in Equestrian Sport.

At Equestrian Australia (EA) events full consideration is given to the welfare of the horse. Trained stewards ensure that equipment rules are followed and are responsible for conducting saddlery checks, including checking nosebands and bits of competing horses.

The noseband check includes a physical check by the steward to guarantee that the noseband is fitted properly and is not having an adverse effect on the horse.

EA also fully supports the Federation Equestre Internationale (FEI) Code of Conduct for the welfare of the horse. The Code of Conduct states at all stages during preparation and training of competition horses, welfare must take precedence over all other demands. The Code states that horses must not be subjected to any training methods which are abusive or cause fear, and that tack must be designed and fitted to avoid the risk of pain or injury. Furthermore, the Code states the following: abuse of a horse using natural riding aids or artificial aids will not be tolerated. View the full Code of Conduct: www.equestrian.org.au/rules

Australian Dressage Committee of Equestrian Australia (16 May 2016)

The Australian Dressage Committee (ADC) wishes to reiterate that the welfare of the horse is paramount in all that it does, whether developing rules for the sport or in training of its dressage stewards and judges – it is an active on-going program.

Nosebands that are too tightly fitted, regardless of type, are never acceptable.

The International standard for the testing of the fitting of nosebands is the two finger test.

The Equestrian Australia Dressage Rulebook clearly illustrates this test. Its implementation is part of the education process for stewards and judges.

At the request of a steward or judge a rider must loosen the noseband.

A noseband that is too tight will adversely affect the harmony of the horse's performance in a dressage test and the results will be reflected in the judges scoring of that test.

2016 WA

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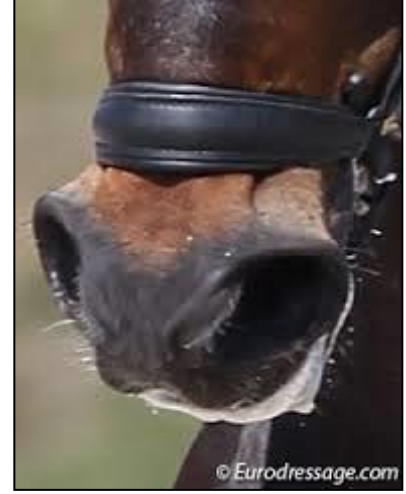


John Hughes

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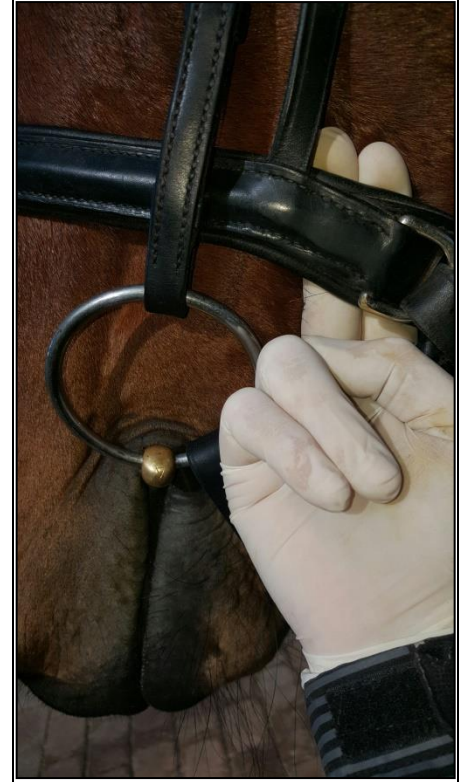
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Below are examples of nosebands that are fitted too tightly and/or incorrectly:



Check of the Noseband:

The following is a quick and easy photographic guide to the fit of nosebands that riders can undertake themselves prior to a gear-check. The Steward will undertake the same check if he/she has any doubt as to the fit or legality of the equipment used on the horse. Please remember that *"at the request of a steward or judge, a rider must loosen the noseband"*.



We all have a part to play in ensuring that horses are not physically or mentally harmed in our desire to ride or compete them. Without exception, this applies to all riders, owners, coaches, judges, stewards and officials.

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Masters of Dressage - Christoph Hess visits WA

4th-6th May 2016

By Wendy Barker



Masters of Dressage
Christoph Hess Tour
© Rebecca De Vries

WA was treated to another feast of dressage when Dressage Judges' Taskforce (DJT) held its third highly successful Masters of Dressage evening, this time with Christoph Hess and Harry Boldt, on Wednesday 4 May at the State Equestrian Centre.

An International FEI Judge in both dressage and eventing, Christoph has officiated at World Championships and Olympic Games eventing dressage. He delivers training & judging seminars all over the world and has been at the top of the sport of dressage and eventing for decades.

Until his recent retirement, Christoph was Director of Training and Education at the beautifully appointed German Equestrian Federation's DOKR base at Warendorf, where he spent 38 years.

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Thanks to much hard work from Chair Elaine Greene, DJT was able to arrange for Christoph to present a Dressage Education Workshop in the afternoon, then a Masterclass in the evening. At the Workshop, he welcomed Harry Boldt enthusiastically – 'I am a middle class rider, not like Harry Boldt, who is a top rider!'

'All equestrian sports are part of one family, but dressage is the red line for all other equestrian sports,' said Christoph. 'I love to train all levels. When people want to learn, I am motivated,' he said. Christoph loves to see horses loosen their back by sending them forward in a very active trot or canter and allowing them to stretch into a longer frame.

The evening began with him working with 3 of WA's highly successful eventing combinations, then young dressage horses, then Para Equestrian, featuring dual PE bronze medallist at Kentucky, Sharon Jarvis riding the Paralympic team shortlisted Ceasy who she is getting more and more confident and soft, then to some promising Small Tour horses, including Steph Spencer, doing a really lovely job on the very elegant Redskin R.

For the penultimate segment of the evening, Christoph handed over to the legendary Harry Boldt. Harry was himself a quadruple Olympic Dressage medallist and trainer of the German Dressage Team during the era when they were almost unbeatable, winning 50 medals. Harry showcased three of the state's Grand Prix combinations, entertaining the crowd with an informal type of quadrille, incorporating half passes, canter pirouettes and passage.

'We all need to look through the same glasses, trainers, judges and most important, riders' Christoph observed at the Workshop, 'I am always happy when we are all together and talk together.'

'When training horses, there is a vicious cycle, the more you use your hands, the more you need your leg, often leading to bigger spurs then bigger bits! In training and competition, do not battle against symptoms, instead search for the reason behind the mistakes.' Christoph likes to encourage horses forward using one tap with a short whip on the horse's shoulder, explaining that a whip behind the rider's leg affects a much more sensitive part of the horse than the horse's shoulder. Rather than using your hands for a half halt, Christoph suggested 'if necessary, ride from shoulder in or leg yield, but do not use your hands.'

As he said, not everyone can be an elite rider, but 'everybody can try to be better today than yesterday in their riding.'

'We were so lucky Christoph could fit us into his busy schedule' said one of the WA Dressage Squad riders who rode in the clinic Christoph ran on Tuesday & Wednesday morning. Indeed we were extremely fortunate to have someone as charming, knowledgeable and enthusiastic as Christoph Hess to present such a Masterclass in WA!

Dressage Judges Taskforce would like to thank Christoph Hess, Harry Boldt, Darren Dawes, Val Mayger and members of the DJT particularly Elaine Greene deserve a special mention, for making this excellent event possible.