

## Dressage WA Newsletter

February 2017

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2017 has arrived and already we have a great start to the year with many competitions and seminars being planned.

In this edition we meet Chelsea de Jonge. Do you have a great idea for the newsletter? Contact us at [www.dressagewa.org](http://www.dressagewa.org).

### Message from the DWA Chair - Gill Botten

I hope everyone is feeling refreshed and ready for the upcoming season. The Riders' Forum was well supported and hopefully all riders will be well acquainted with the new rules for competition by now. The dates are now up on the website. Although not an official event, DWA

supports the new initiative of an event for Young Riders this year and hope that it will be well attended. Plans for the State Dressage Championships are now well underway and I am sure they will be upon us before we know it!

Riders making late entries can cause a nightmare for organisers and judges so please get your entries in on time – it is the policy of DWA not to accept these in the future as it is unfair on those who are organized and adhere to the closing date.

Having ridden a Fijian pony for two hours recently I have decided my 24 year old schoolmaster is not as uncomfortable as I thought he was! Incredible way to see the countryside though - if anyone has been riding overseas do write in about it as we would be interested to read about it in the newsletter.

The 2017 HP Dressage Squads have now been finalised and we wish our riders every success in their endeavours.

Wishing everyone a happy and successful season.

Quote for the month:

**"The correct seat for any form of riding will not give you an advantage over another rider who also sits correctly-but any seat OTHER than the correct seat will put you at a disadvantage."**

*Tom Roberts. 1982. "Horse Control-The Rider" T.A. & P.R.Robert.s South Australia.*



## Dressage Western Australia Committee Members

Chair - Gill Botten  
Vice Chair – Tracy Spackman  
Treasurer -

### **Finance/Treasury –**

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

**Events –** Working Parties

**Club Liaison –** Marjory Stanger

**Pony Representative –** Steph Munro

**Participant Representative –** Kate Baxter

**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

## Meet dressage rider Chelsea De Jonge

*Twelve year old Chelsea De Jonge was born with a syndrome called Symbrachydactyly which means she doesn't have any fingers on her right hand, so she uses three loops on the right rein which she holds onto with her wrist. This talented rider has been selected for the Para Dressage Squad for WA and the Rising Stars program.*



*Tell us about your horses.*

I have owned Max (Aspen Way Royal Gala) for the past two years. He is so special to me as he is an extremely loving pony, who tries his best all the time. He is a 10 year old, 14.1 hh, dark brown, Riding pony. We bought him from a lovely family from the central coast near Sydney in 2014. Max thinks he is the king of our stables, happily bossing all of our other horses around all the time. He is a bit cheeky! My biggest achievement on Max was travelling over to Sydney for the National Interschool Championships with the WA Interschool team in 2015 where we placed 6th overall in Novice and 6th overall in my Show Hunter for primary school. Max and I also won both the Preliminary and Novice in the PCAWA leaderboard series for 2015. In 2016, we again qualified for the National Interschool Championships and we moved up to intermediate from primary and placed 7th overall in the Novice. Being involved in the WA Interschool team has been





so much fun and I have made fantastic friendships with other riders around our state.

My other pony's name is Boy (funny thing is his stable name is Boy and his show name is Boy). If only he could talk to me what fantastic stories he would tell. He is 20 years young, dark brown, 13.2 hh, Dutch Riding Pony. He has come over from Holland back in 2010, being campaigned over on the East Coast and then down in Tasmania where last year he was awarded with Medium Pony of the Year 2016 with Para rider Caitlyn Radford. He is a very quirky little fellow as he is always pulling mean faces to everyone when really he is a sweetie. I have just started this year riding Elementary and Medium on him. He is such a clever pony and is teaching me a lot of fancy movements. I think that it is funny that we are both from Dutch bloodlines.



#### *What are your riding goals?*

My goals this year is to hopefully qualify for the Interschool Nationals again and ride and do well in Para Equestrian on Boy. My long term goal is to one day compete in the Paralympics like my coach Sharon Jarvis.

#### *How did you start out in riding and dressage?*

My Mum has always had horses so when I was very little we had a beautiful Shetland pony called Ruby. She was a very cute buckskin pony who I eventually started leadline at shows and Pony Club. My love for dressage came when I got my first dressage pony called Robbie (Mirinda Robin Hood) who was a very experienced school master who taught me so much.

#### *Who has been your greatest influence?*

My biggest Influence would have to be Paralympian Sharon Jarvis who has been my coach and friend for five years now. She has taken me a long way in this time and I look forward to a lifelong progression in my riding. My parents also help me lots with extra coaching and supporting my love for dressage riding.

#### *How can dressage in WA be improved?*

I think dressage could be improved by including more freestyle tests to the show programs. I absolutely love freestyles and they are really fun.





## Steward's Corner

By Janet Reid

### Clarification of EA Dressage Rules - January 2017

- ✦ Double-Bridles are no longer mandatory for EA FEI level national classes in Australia.
- ✦ Snaffle bridles may be worn at all levels from Preparatory through to Grand Prix.
- ✦ Double-Bridles are still mandatory at FEI Sanctioned Dressage Events (e.g. CDI's). Note that Western Australia does not currently hold any FEI Sanctioned Dressage Events.
- ✦ Short coat or cutaway jacket (cut straight across the back) to be worn with a [Snaffle Bridle](#) from [Preparatory to Elementary Level](#) (Reference EA Dressage Rules 2.1.1 & 2.8(a) & Table 2.19)
- ✦ Short coat or cutaway jacket (cut straight across the back) to be worn with a [Snaffle or Double-Bridle](#) at [Medium level](#) (Reference EA Dressage Rules 2.1.1 & 2.8(a) & Table 2.19).
- ✦ Tail Coat, short coat or cutaway jacket (cut straight across the back) to be worn with a [Snaffle or Double-Bridle](#) from [Advanced through to Grand Prix level](#). (Reference EA Dressage Rules 2.1.3 & 2.1.4 & 2.8(a & c) & Table 2.19).
- ✦ Tail Coats may be worn with snaffle bridles (Advanced thru to Grand Prix level tests only). Reference EA Dressage Rule 2.8 (g).
- ✦ It is mandatory for EA approved safety helmets to be worn in EA Preparatory to Advanced level dressage tests, regardless of the age of the rider or the horse/pony.
- ✦ It is optional to wear either an approved [safety helmet, or a top hat](#), for EA FEI level dressage tests from PSG to Grand Prix, [if the rider is aged 22 years and over](#).

*Reference EA Dressage Rules 2.1.4(d) and 2.2 – Reference FEI Article 427 (1) Note \*\*: An Athlete is considered to be twenty-two [22] years old from the beginning of the calendar year (1st of January) in which he/she reaches the age of twenty-two [22].*

- ✦ Riders may enter Official competitions: (Reference EA Dressage Rule 1.15.4):
  - a) from the start of the calendar year they turn 10 years of age when riding horses
  - b) from the start of the calendar year they turn 8 years of age when riding ponies.
- ✦ A throat lash is compulsory on bridles – the exceptions are a Combined Noseband or a Micklem Bridle. Reference EA Dressage Rule 2.21 and EA Equipment Annexure Page 10 dated September 2016, and FEI Dressage Rules (Tack & Equipment July 2016).

**Competitors are responsible for knowing and complying with the current Equestrian Australia National Dressage Rules, Annexures, or any additional rules or directives given by the EA, Australian Dressage Committee (refer to EA Website for updates).**





**Rule 1.5 – Protests, Reports, Appeals and Yellow Warning Cards**

Officials and competitors need to abide by the Codes of Conduct as contained in the EA Member Protection Policy.


Refer to the EA General Regulations Articles 163, 164 and 165, EA Codes of Conduct, EA Member Protection Policy and its associated Attachment D1 Complaints Procedures, and EA Disciplinary By-laws on the EA website for processes.

Refer to EA General Regulations Article 169.3 for the potential penalty in relation to complaints about incorrect behavior towards event officials or any other party connected with the event (e.g. other rider, journalist, public member, etc.)

**New Rule 1.5.1 - A Yellow Warning Card may be imposed for the following:**

- **Abuse of horse** (an action or omission involving the mistreatment of a horse).
- **Abuse of an Official** (including abusive or bullying behaviour directed to an Official and conduct directed toward an Official that denigrates the Official).
- **Failure to follow a direction of an Official** relating to compliance with these rules.

It is highly recommended that riders read this new rule in its entirety from the latest 2017 EA Dressage Rule Book (see EA website).

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>EA WARNING CARD</b></p> <p>Event: _____</p> <p>Date: _____</p> <p>Person Responsible: _____</p> <p><u>Offence: (Please tick one)</u></p> <p>Abuse of Horse..... <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Abuse of an Official..... <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Failure to follow a direction of an Official..... <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Specify: _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Officials Name: _____</p> <p>Officials Jurisdiction: _____</p> <p>Signature of Official: _____</p> <p>Signature of Person Responsible: _____</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>WARNING CARD</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Extract from the National Dressage Rules</b></p> <div style="text-align: center;">         EQUESTRIAN AUSTRALIA     </div> <p>This card is for use at EA Official Dressage events. <b>FEI, National accredited Stewards, EA Technical Delegates, FEI accredited Judges and EA National Judge Educators</b> have the authority to issue a Yellow Warning Card at an Event. <b>See Rule 1.5: Protests, Reports, Appeals and Yellow Cards.</b> Yellow Warning Cards following a meeting with the party concerned at the event may be issued on the day and when being awarded by an EA or FEI Official, should ideally be delivered personally to the rider, together with an explanation as to why it is being issued and the possible consequences of any further offences being committed. In the case of a rider being under the age of 18 years, a Parent/Guardian must be present when personally delivering the Yellow Warning Card. Where a rider receives two or more Yellow Warning Cards within a 12 month period for the same offence the SDA will prepare a report for referral to the EA Branch for consideration under the Disciplinary Bylaws/General Regulations. If after reasonable efforts the rider cannot be notified during the period of the event that they have received a Yellow Warning Card, the rider must be notified within 14 (fourteen) days of the event. Yellow Warning Cards received at both International and National events will be taken into account.</p>
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## Riders' Forum

By Steph Munro

Photos by Rebecca De Vries



DWA's third Riders Forum hosted by Horseland Midland was held on Monday 23rd January 2017. The event featured a presentation by Michelle James from Penny Hill Park Stud about their dressage horses and services. This was followed by an informative update on the new 2017 rules by FEI steward, Janet Reid. Horseland Midland also very generously treated those that attended with a promotion on purchases that evening.

The forum was very lucky to have Michelle present on Monday evening; as a national colt selector and warmblood judge, NCAS coach, AI Technician, and FEI Rider, she offered fantastic insight into Warmblood breeding in WA. Penny Hill Park Warmblood Stud was established in 1991, and under the leadership of Michelle has developed a successful breeding programme utilizing outstanding international and Australian bloodlines. Michelle focused on the importance of breeding horses that are 'fit for purpose' with a focus on type, correctness, gaits and reliability. This process begins with carefully assessing mares and stallions in relation to pedigree, type, movement, trainability and heritability in order to produce foals of outstanding quality. PHP's aim is to produce elite foals for the discerning dressage rider and provide horse training and instruction for clients. Overall the presentation was very informative and left many of those in attendance wanting to take the horses on the slideshow home!

We were very lucky to have Janet walk us through the numerous rule changes enacted for 2017. She began with a discussion of the new protective headgear (helmet) regulations and encouraged every rider to check their helmet for compliance with the new standards (available on the EA website). Janet confirmed that it is the responsibility of the rider to ensure their helmet complies with current standards both for safety and insurance purposes. She also stressed that it is a club/organising committee's role to take reasonable steps to ensure compliance with the rules by communicating the list of approved standards to their members/competitors when becoming a member, or entering a competition.

In line with this, Horseland Midland is offering for riders to trade in their old helmet in exchange for either \$25 or \$50 to use against the purchase of a new compliant helmet on the same day. This offer is valid until 28th February 2017.





Janet very kindly produced a hand-out on the new rule changes and approved helmet standards for all attendees. Important rule changes to note include: attire and snaffle bridle use throughout levels, top hat usage, changes in age at which riders may enter official competitions and that all official riders must have their numbers displayed on both sides. Janet also took the opportunity to highlight that official riders must have their numbers displayed on both sides (or risk elimination), and as such there is no need for competitors to stop and verbally report to the judge. Competitors are encouraged to ride around the arena without stopping until signalled to commence test; a rider's start time should be the time they ride down the centreline. In the case of participant riders, DWA has resolved to approach EWA regarding allocating numbers with participant membership.

On top of the new rule changes, Janet encouraged riders to read Annexures F, G and M which cover reasons for elimination, rules for duration of riding before and after a test, and the EA hot weather policy. She also covered the introduction of yellow cards in dressage.

Discussion sparked over the suggestion to introduce a 'Permit to Ride' test required to be taken before Riders can obtain an official dressage card. The test was viewed as an incentive for riders to read and understand the rules. DWA resolved to refer the suggestion to the EWA board with the possibility of it being adopted as a State requirement.

The forum was extremely well attended, with just under 50 people in attendance. We were very lucky again to have Ron Fleming as our professional facilitator. Questions spanned a number of different topics relating to both riders and event organisation. The major focus of the evening was the number of competitions (both official and unofficial young horse) on the dressage calendar and how more competitions would be better facilitated.

It was noted that currently clubs submit proposed dates to EWA, who manage the state-wide calendar. A number of barriers to event organisation were highlighted and as such, DWA resolved to discuss the current procedures with EWA. Any clubs that wish to run events are encouraged to re-submit dates via DWA so they may be best facilitated.

Those in attendance with young horses raised the lack of certainty they felt with regards to the young horse competition calendar as no dates have yet been set. DWA replied that they are looking at organising a young horse event late in the year but encouraged clubs to add additional young horse classes to their competitions. Discussion was also raised about the potential development of a working party to encourage more young horse competitions and provide guidance for clubs.

The minutes of the forum and any actions taken will be published at a later date on the DWA website.

A big thank you to all those involved with making the forum so successful – to Tracy Spackman, DWA Riders' Rep, for organising the event; Michelle for her fantastic presentation; Janet for ensuring we all stay safe; and Ron for his professionalism in conducting the forum.





## WA Dressage Young Riders Association

By Steph Munro

The WA Dressage Young Riders Association (WADYRA) is a club dedicated to junior and young riders 25 years and under wanting to improve and succeed in dressage. Our members are a range of ages and riding levels – from 7 to 24 years and from preparatory tests to FEI. We welcome any riders that want to improve their dressage for any discipline.

We have rallies, a camp and lots of opportunities for test riding. At rallies, riders are separated into groups of 2-3 riders in each lesson according to the level at which they are riding and test riding is available at most rallies with an EWA judge.

Founded in 2006 by chief coach, Dr Victoria Hamilton, WADYRA has fostered the development of some of Western Australia's top young riders across a range of disciplines. Madison Tristram, Rebecca Radny and Stephanie Munro are three such members who not only had incredible success at National Interschool and Pony Club Championships but have continued from strength to strength in their riding careers.

Rebecca Radny joined at age 13 and has grown from strength to strength with her horses riding to FEI Small Tour. One of Bec's many highlights has been her incredible success at the Australian Young Rider Championships, taking out National Pony Medium Champion in 2014 with Bevanlee Astronomer, and National Medium and Advanced Champion with Noblis Juelles in 2015. Bec is now studying at University of Melbourne with her sights firmly set on the 2017 World Youth Endurance Championships in Italy. Good luck Bec!

Madison Tristram joined WADYRA at age 7 and has gone on to work for Olympian Mary Hanna at Statene Park, grooming for her at the 2016 Rio Olympics. Madi also won the 2015 Aachen Challenge at the Saddleworld Dressage Festival (An FEI young rider dressage competition where the top riders exchange horses and compete).

Steph Munro joined WADYRA at age 11 with her small pony Gumby. Ten years on and still a member of WADYRA, Steph and her pony Trapalanda Brigadeer are the only pony combination in WA competing in FEI Medium Tour (one level below Grand Prix). Together they held their own at the National Young Rider Championships, taking out third in the FEI Small Tour Championship.

WADYRA's scholarship programme has seen the development of many young riders across the state. It is through this innovative programme that we encourage riders to give back to the sport. One of our members, Alex Devenish-Krauth was given a judging scholarship which provided funding to begin her dressage judge training and Hana Matthews (Hana Thompson Dressage Coaching) received funding for beginning her coaching career.

Our riders often say that one of their strengths is their ability to test ride and remain calm in the dressage arena. WADYRA ensures that every rider at each rally has the opportunity to ride a dressage test with an EWA judge in a low-pressure environment. Riders are provided with time after the test to receive feedback, discuss what happened in the arena and ride movements again under the eye of the judge. Each rider is also encouraged to pencil or sit with the judge so that they can further understand the judge's perspective.

A highlight of the year for all of our members is WADYRA's three day camp. Held at the State Equestrian Centre over the July school holidays, the camp is a fantastic opportunity for riders to improve their dressage. The camp is open to both members and non-members and includes multiple lessons each day, pole work, and test riding with different judges. We also strongly focus on the development of the rider with lectures on subjects such as horse dentistry and bits, as well as rider nutrition, and fitness sessions.

WADYRA is excited to present in 2017 the WA Junior and Young Riders' Dressage Festival. The event is designed to encourage riders up to the age of 25 to come together to compete in a friendly and supportive atmosphere. With tests from Preparatory to Advanced and FEI tests, the Festival is open official riders; non-EA members; pony club members and ARC members up to the year in which they are 25. This event is suited to everyone: from the junior rider who has not ridden a dressage test before, to the most seasoned of competitors. Classes are divided based on age and rosettes and prizes will be presented throughout the event. For more information on the festival see the link on the EA calendar and entries through Nominate.