

Dressage WA Newsletter

February 2017

- 1 Message from the DWA
Chair
- 2 DWA Committee Members
- 2 Meet dressage rider – Elissa
Forbes
- 5 DWA 2018 Leaderboard
- 6 DWA Awards Presentation
and Social Night
- 7 DWA Competition
Incentives for Clubs
- 8 Judge Protocol Day
featuring Nicole Tough
- 8 EWA Awards Night
- 13 Southern Solstice Dressage
Championship

2018 has arrived and already we have a great start to the year, with many competitions and seminars being planned.

If you have a great idea for the newsletter, contact us at www.dressagewa.org.

Message from the DWA Chair – Suzanne Simons

DWA has undergone a few changes in the last few months with the resignation of Gill Botten, Elaine Green, Marj Stanger and Kate Baxter. We thank them very much for their services and the vast amount of work they have each put in over several years. They have left DWA in a strong position for 2018. We welcome Tanya Pazsnicki to the DWA Committee as the Participant Representative and know that she will be very busy helping to organize something big for the end of the year – stay tuned!

DWA has been very active over the past few months and some great initiatives have already been released, which you can read about in this newsletter.

Suzanne Simons (Chair DWA)

Quote for the month:

“In our sport, we hear so much about the importance of the outside rein that we sometimes, even at the upper levels, get lost. It's all too easy to forget that it's really about both reins, and the process of getting that ideal connection with both reins starts with the inside aids. Gaining submission with the inside aids gives us influence over the hindquarters and enables our horses to relate correctly to the outside aids”

Olivia LaGoy-Weltz, 2016. Defining the Rein Aids in 'Dressage Today', July. USA



Dressage Western Australia Committee Members

Chair – Suzanne Simons
Vice Chair – Val Mayger
Treasurer – Ros O'Halloran

Finance/Treasury – Ros

O'Halloran/Suzanne Simons
DWA budget management, DDF
accounts, purchase orders and
payments

Issue of Information – Steph Munro
Website and Facebook

Correspondence – Suzanne
Simons/Sharon Pasco
Minutes, Agendas, incoming and
outgoing correspondence.

Business/Strategic Planning -
Committee

Events – Working Parties

Club Liaison – Leanne Pitcher

Pony Representative – Leanne
Pitcher

Participant Representative – Tanya
Pasznicki

Official Liaison – Val Mayger

Judges, Stewards, liaising with other
disciplines, national issues.

High Performance – Tracy Spackman

EA/EWA – Val Mayger
liaising with EWA Board and CEO,
ADC etc.

Riders Representative – Sharon Pasco
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 Elissa Forbes

Elissa lives in Denmark, so it takes her quite some time to drive to Perth for competitions. But that doesn't stop her from being very competitive in the Young Horse classes as well as at Preliminary and Novice level.

Tell us about your horses.

I've got a couple of horses in work at the moment, with the gelding Royal Magic and mare Southern Star Feonix my main competition horses. Both are currently competing at Novice level in their first competitive competition year. Magic has been creating the most interest recently, so I will focus on him but we also have high hopes for Feonix once we can get better consistency.

Royal Magic - or Magic as he's known at home - is a 17hh chestnut gelding born in 2010. I bought him as a two and a half year old from Victoria. He was originally bred by Bloomfield Stud and his Sire is Royal Hit and Dam is Bloomfield Jazzmin. His sire's side includes both Rubinstein and Donnerhall lines, as well as Welt As. His dam's side includes Jazz and Don Ramiro, with a little bit of thoroughbred.

There's a lot to like about Magic. He has 3 lovely rhythmical paces with great suspension. Personality wise he's just a big kid, although sometimes it's more like a big chicken. Having said that he loves his trail rides and is happy to go out by himself, which has been great training for competitions. Magic has a very sweet, friendly nature with a keen interest in the world around him and what could potentially leap out and attack him next!



Magic can be tricky when travelling as he's not the best eater. He can easily go off his hard feed when away from home, so careful management is required to keep his condition. He is always happiest in a paddock eating grass.

One other comical trait is that Magic is the slowest walker on the property, the amount of air time that horse can achieve for each leg is second to none. I think the 12hh pony would beat him in a walk race.

What has been the key to the horse's training?

Strengths: he has excellent natural rhythm and suspension so not getting in the way at the start was important. Being a big moving horse, transitions and simple lateral work were and are a big part of developing engagement without ruining his paces. We are still working on that of course and I don't want to take him up to Elementary until his loin area is more developed and he can sit better.

Magic is sensitive and wants to do the right thing, thriving on positive reinforcement. This trait makes training him far easier than a disinterested horse who just wants to be out in the paddock. A key component to our more recent successes has been my improved understanding of this and being quicker at rewarding him with a 'good boy' or a quick pat on the neck.

Weaknesses: like most other big warmbloods, Magic was quite immature mentally till about late last year. One of the biggest training challenges with Magic has been keeping him mentally happy and building his trust. This comes in part from his sensitivity, which also has meant he can be quite spooky. When Magic shies he tends to take you from one side of the road to the other, but he does it so smoothly. Now that the trust is developing, that sensitivity is turning into a positive.

The other weakness has been engagement; getting the hind end to keep up with the extravagant front end. When we first saw Magic we could see his back was on the weaker side and being a big horse would take time and training to build that up. As mentioned before you can't get past transitions both within the pace and between paces and lateral work.

What are your riding goals?

My short term goal is to achieve an 80% in a dressage test. We have reached just over 74% so there's a bit of a way to go, but not unachievable....

Two long term goals:

- 1) Ride to Grand Prix level
- 2) Ride competitively in the National Championships

How did you start out in riding and dressage?

My parents aren't horsey people so constantly bugging them from a young age to let me have horseriding lessons was a large part of it. I still fondly remember riding at Kay Nelson's Snaffles riding school for many years before my parents purchased my first horse at 15yrs old.



Elissa and Royal Magic winning the Penny Hill Park Rising Star 2017





As a typical teenager I was more interested in eventing and showjumping however as we all know you can't get a good score in eventing without good dressage so I was directed to Roz Tippet who was just up the road from where I agisted my horse. I had regular lessons with her till early 20's when I sold my then Fresian Warmblood as I was heading overseas for a few years. It was then, while I had no horse of my own that I had the opportunity at Roz's to ride an Advance trained horse and then Grand Prix horse in lessons. The dressage bug had sunk its teeth into me.

Who has been your greatest influence?

I'm currently being inspired by my two coaches: Louise Hillman in Albany and Victoria Hamilton who I started lessons with this year, coming up to Perth every 3 months or so. The combination has been working really well and I enjoy their ethos in training horses.

I would have to say the biggest influence though has been family. My grandfather, in particular, instilled in me a 'you can do it if you put your mind to it' and good work ethic. My parents have always been supportive and I'm lucky enough to have a husband who also rides and shares the passion, so I have a great support crew.

How can dressage in WA be improved?

Dressage can sometimes be an isolating sport, as it's usually just you and your horse. This could be improved by encouraging a greater team environment to the sport. Adding a team component to some of the bigger dressage events or even an annual accumulative team challenge using top x scores (similar to the rising star format) over the year, with finals at the State Championships, could assist. You wouldn't necessarily need to add additional classes, just use scores from current competitions.

Greater support for regional riders. Workshops and clinics held in Perth are a great initiative (this would be beneficial for all EWA clinics and workshops), but it's obviously hard for regional riders, coaches and judges to get there. If these events could be undertaken as live podcasts or something similar, where regional people could view them live on the internet. Or at a non-riding clinic, being able to text questions to a given number would be a useful way for all riders to access these opportunities without the big cost and travel time factors.



Elissa and Royal Magic at the State Dressage Championships. Photo credit: Waylib Photos



DRESSAGE
WESTERN AUSTRALIA



Dressage Western Australia 2018 Leaderboard

Dressage WA is proud to present its 2018 Annual Dressage Leaderboard covering all levels of dressage competition in Western Australia. The Leaderboard includes Participants, Competitor Horses, Competitor Ponies, Adult Riders & Para-Equestrian Riders at nine levels of competition (Preliminary-Grand Prix) to a total of 20 classes (see below).

Level	Competitor Pony	Competitor Horse	Participant	Adult Rider	Para-Equestrian
Preliminary	☐	☐	☐	☐	PE rider gaining the most points regardless of grade.
Novice	☐	☐	☐	☐	
Elementary	☐	☐			
Medium	☐	☐			
Advanced	☐	☐			
Prix St George		☐			
Intermediate 1		☐			
Medium Tour (including Intermediate A and Intermediate B tests)		☐			
Intermediate 2		☐			
Grand Prix		☐			

The aims and objectives of the 2018 DWA Leaderboard ("Leaderboard") are to:

- Support the growth and development of dressage riders in WA;
- Support the initiative taken by clubs and volunteers in organising competitions in WA;
- Increase awareness of opportunities for riders; and
- Reward participation and success.

The 2018 Leaderboard will run from 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2018 and will include all Competitor and Participant competitions in the Equestrian WA Calendar. As at January 2018 – this is estimated to be a total of approximately 50 events.

Points will be accumulated by horse and rider combinations at each event, based on placings as seen below.

1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th
6	5	4	3	2	1

Each horse and rider combination is eligible for one Leaderboard at one level. The winner of each Leaderboard will be awarded based on the total accumulative number of points, given that the combination has maintained EA Membership for the appropriate category and that they have attended one regional competition (outside 100km radius from Perth GPO).



Dressage Western Australia Awards Presentation and Social Night



FRIDAY 23
FEBRUARY 2018,
FROM 6PM

DRESSAGE WA INVITES YOU TO OUR AWARD PRESENTATIONS & SOCIAL NIGHT

Join us as we celebrate the achievements of our 2017 award winners and outline our exciting plans and initiatives for 2018.

Enjoy complimentary finger food while you get to know the 2018 DWA Committee and fellow riders, officials and supporters.



2017 award
presentations

Meet the 2018
committee

Hear about our
exciting plans for
2018

Finger food
provided

Drinks available for
purchase from the
bar

CHAPEL FARM'S WHEELBARROW WALL

231 Toodyay Road,

Middle Swan

6pm start

7pm presentations

**RSVPs essential for
catering purposes by 13
February to**

<http://bit.ly/2BEkWTV>



DWA 2018 Competition Incentives for Clubs

Is your club eligible for a competition grant?

In 2018 Dressage WA is offering EWA-affiliated clubs (including dressage and adult riding clubs) the opportunity to apply for retrospective subsidies when running official dressage competitions (Participant and Competitive).

The aim of this subsidy program is to help clubs meet the increasing costs of running competitions, such as judges, officials and prizes.

Your club could be eligible for up to \$1000 per competition, depending on the number of tests ridden and the level of classes offered. The subsidy will only be offered for two events per club.

The table below summarises the subsidies available and the relevant eligibility criteria:

Subsidy	Eligibility criteria
\$200 for 1 st event \$400 for 2 nd event	Minimum of 50 Participant and Competitive tests (Preliminary to Advanced) ridden & scored
\$100	Minimum of 5 Small Tour (PSG and Inter 1) tests ridden & scored
\$200	Minimum of 5 Medium (Inter A and B) or Large Tour (Inter II and GP) tests ridden & scored
\$200	Minimum of 5 FEI young horse/pony tests ridden & scored
\$100	Minimum of 5 young horse/pony tests (4, 5 and 6 year olds using EA tests) ridden & scored
\$100	Minimum of 10 freestyles

How to apply?

After your competition, please send a covering letter to DWA detailing your club details, competition summary and club's banking information. You must also include the following supporting information to be considered for a subsidy:

- Copy of the final draw
- Copy of the final results, including scores/placings
- Summary of prizes presented to competitors
- Competition report and photos (both in electronic format) for the DWA newsletter
-

Where does this funding come from?

These subsidies are provided through the Dressage Development Fund, which collects the levies applied to Participant and Competitive dressage tests.

Dressage WA has responsibility for administering this fund and reinvesting the levies into initiatives that encourage further participation and growth in the sport.

For more information

Please Contact DWA's Club Representative, Leanne Pitcher

Web: www.dressagewa.org



Judge Protocol Day featuring Nicole Tough (QLD)

Dressage WA is pleased to present a Judge Protocol Day featuring guest visiting judge Nicole Tough (QLD)

About Nicole: Nicole Tough is an accredited Level 2 Dressage Specialist Coach, Level A National Grand Prix and Young Horse Judge and Judge Educator. She is a highly successful competitor, having trained 9 horses to FEI level, with 7 Australian titles, up to 25 State Championship titles to her credit, and has held 33 spots on State and National Squads since 1994. She has been awarded Equestrian QLD Coach of the Year, Sport Star of the Year and Volunteer of the Year. Nicole has trained many of her students from the breaking stage to FEI level, with many on State and National Squads and onto International representation. Nicole loves coaching, making a difference to riders and their horses.

- 18 March 2018
- Indoor arena, State Equestrian Centre
- 35 minute sessions
- Ride the test of your choice
- \$75 + fees
- Open to all riders!
- Entries open on Nominate

This is a Dressage WA initiative supported by the Dressage Development Fund.

EWA Awards Night – Dressage Awards

Equestrian WA held its annual awards night on Friday 2 February at the new Aloft Hotel, Burswood. Dressage WA congratulates all the winners in the dressage category:

Hermitage Dressage Uwe Spenlen Dressage Horse of the Year awarded to PHP Sophia, owned by Michelle James & ridden by Emma Hayward! Runner-up awarded to Revelwood Olivia ridden by Eliza Hebiton

Cavaletti Owner of the Year for Dressage awarded to Michelle James

Transitions Inc. Young Rider Award presented to Eliza Hebiton





La Noir Equestrian Saddleworld Outstanding High Performance Athlete Award for Dressage awarded to Deon Stokes and accepted by Gill Botten



Saddles Plus Interschool Leaderboard Series Dressage Senior, La Noir Equestrian Saddleworld Outstanding High Performance Athlete Award in Para-Equestrian & DiCandilo Steel City Para-Equestrian Athlete of the Year Award awarded to Chelsea de Jonge



La Noir Equestrian Saddleworld Most Improved Award for Dressage awarded to Ashleigh Middendorp with Joshua Brook Budweiser



La Noir Equestrian Saddleworld Rising Star Scholarship for Dressage awarded to Taylah Welsh with San Rubin II.



2017 Event of the Year (Dressage) awarded to The Project Neon FEI Showcase Series congratulations to event organisers Tahlia Piper & Ally Doumany and Terrina Fairbrother



Hermitage Dressage Uwe
Spenlen Dressage FEI Horse
of the Year & West Coast
Vets Horse of the Year for
Dressage awarded to
Matavia Fisher King, owned
and ridden by Melanie
Nixon

Paddock Property
Volunteer of the Year for
Dressage awarded to
Beverley Leonard





*IVideo Production Official
Of the Year Overall and
Dressage awarded to Gill
Botten*

*D'Arcy Slater Foundation
Special Services to Sport for
Dressage Awarded to Val
Mayger*



Paper Stork Young Athlete of the Year for Dressage awarded to Chloe Moon and Kjersti Grov



2017 EWA Coach of the Year - Dressage & Overall awarded to Gail Simms



Bates Athlete of the Year for Dressage Awarded to Liz Tollarzo

EWA Club of the Year awarded to Henty Riding Club





Southern Solstice Dressage Championship - Albany

Every year Southern Districts Dressage Club (SDDC) offers one of the biggest dressage competitions outside the metropolitan area. Competitors come from Perth, Margaret River and other regional areas for a chance to win a championship and prizes over the weekend of 27th – 28th January. For some of our travellers, it is a chance to experience some cooler weather during the summer months.

As usual, there was great food available thanks to the Albany Pony Club and delicious coffee and snacks provided by the Koffee Boost van.

Throughout the weekend over 200 tests were ridden ranging from Preparatory to Small Tour. Being the start of the year there were several rider and horse combinations stepping up to the next level. The freestyle tests were a crowd favourite and spectators weren't disappointed with a number of high scoring and interesting tests. Rachel Brennen rode a lovely test on Mists of Time scoring 70.938 in her Intermediate 1 Freestyle making it all look easy. Other freestyle highlights included Sarah Johnson riding DVZ Santorini scoring 70.50% in the Preliminary Freestyle and the hotly contested Novice Freestyle class with 4 rider horse combinations scoring over 70%, including high score of Elissa Forbes riding Royal Magic with 74.152%.

The committee and riders would like to thank our wonderful judges who spent the whole weekend with us, generously sharing their knowledge and time. Our judging team included Elaine Greene, Penny Lee, Hazel Hkens and Zoe Harrison from Perth and our Great Southern judges; Andrew Forbes, Virginia Longley, Heather Carrington-Jones and Angela Shepherd.

Also, a big thankyou to all our generous sponsors and volunteers who made it a weekend to remember and without whom we couldn't run such a great event!

Full results of the weekend can be found on the SDDC website www.sddc.org.au

Championships

Competitor Classes

Preliminary Championship

Sarah Johnson & DVZ Santorini

Novice Championship

Elissa Forbes & Royal Magic

Elementary Championship

Rachel Brennen & Mayfair Lady

Medium Championship

Tyla Schou & Dyrring Park Stanmore

Advanced Championship

Kristy Zabaznow & Heatherton Park Ma Cherie

Small Tour

Rachel Brennen & Mists of Time

Restricted/Participant Classes

Preparatory Championship

Kim Bunney & Delta

Preliminary Championship

Julia Kershaw & Jingle R

Novice Championship

Ella Jones & Dreeme Park Simply Gold



Hi Points

Hi Points Pony

Tayla Heath & Maraahn El Shamar

Hi Points Young Rider

Tyla Schou & Dyrring Park Stanmore

Hi Points Local Rider

Samantha Cook & Imperial Thunder

Hi Points Young Horse

Amy Kennedy & Clare Downs Enwedig Rhifyn

Hi Points Locally Bred

Tracy Thomas & BM Antonio

Hi Points "Off the Track" Award

Sharon Jenkins & Party Secrets



Tracy Thomas and BM Antonio



Kim Bunny and Delta



Lisa Riley Royal Remembrance