



Dressage WA Newsletter

March 2018

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Planning for the 2018 WA State Dressage Championships is well underway. But we need some help – so if you have some spare time please contact us. Help your sport be the best that it can be.

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

Message from the Riders Representative

Well it's certainly been a busy and exciting start to the year for the committee with our first 'event' under our belts. What a great way to start the season by celebrating and acknowledging some of our successful competitors from last year at our DWA awards night held at Chapel Farm. It was a thoroughly enjoyable evening with great food, atmosphere and company and we enjoyed receiving the positive feedback from the strong turnout.

We are now getting into gear for the first of our Rider Forums which will be held in April at Horseland Midland. A second forum is planned for later in the year at a regional location. The forum is an opportunity for you to ask questions and have your say. There will be DWA committee, Dressage Judges Task Force and stewarding representatives there to answer questions and hear your ideas so come along and have your say. I look forward to seeing you all there.

Sharon Pasco (Riders Representative)

Quote for the month:

"Whether you're coping with the pressure of riding down centerline at the Olympics or wanting to make the jump from First to Second Level, learning to focus and deal with your emotions each day is key"

Allison Brook. 2017. "Mental Focus" in Dressage Today, 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
General Committee Member – Linley Crackel

Chelsea de Jonge at Boneo Classic 2018

What a lucky girl I am! This January mum and I travelled to Melbourne for the 2018 Boneo Classic. This event was my first International Para Equestrian CPDEI championship. It was also my opportunity to get my FEI Para classification card. I was born with a condition called Symbrachydacty syndrome which means I have no fingers on my right hand (which is very small), and as I am growing my right arm is shorter in length than my left. I ride with loops on my right rein which I hold with my wrist. I was physically assessed by the international examiners who then watched me ride in my Team test for confirmation of my Grade 5 status. Thumbs up for the future if I ever want to ride overseas for Para equestrian- big dreams!

I was very fortunate to have plenty of help and support to get to this event. The biggest thank you to Hannie Byrne who organised the ride on the fabulous Ridemark Amore (Abby) and the lovely family who own her, Emmalee Weston and her parents Leanne and David.

This beautiful Chestnut mare is 21 years young, 15.3hh and was actually bred in WA. Her sire is Aramis and her dam is Flamboyant Dancer. We bonded very quickly over the 5 days of training we had together before the competition started, which also involved lessons with Virginia Creed (a major highlight) as she has been the owner's coach for many years.



Abby has had a brilliant career in the dressage ring, competing very successfully to Prix St George and in Victorian high performance youth squads and Interschools National teams, among other things. I did find her to be quite challenging as she is a very clever girl and tended to take over because she knew test sequences and anticipated movements that were different in my FEI para tests. However, she looked after me so well and had a lovely soft nature.

My Grade 5 FEI para tests are a cross between Elementary, Medium and Advanced level and are quite tricky. I feel I'm improving my riding in these tests the more I do them. Riding Abby at this event was a huge privilege and we were rewarded with placings in our classes. Funnily enough, the Hong Kong and the American judges particularly liked us as a combination.

Boneo Park is one of the most amazing riding facilities I have ever seen. It has very large stables, great arenas and would be lovely to keep your horse there if you lived around the Mornington Peninsula (it's also a beautiful spot for a holiday).

One of the highlights for me would probably be meeting all the other Para riders from around the country, and especially Emma Booth who was so nice to me and we had some lovely chats. Another highlight would be spending time with my mentor and friend Sharon Jarvis, who now lives in NSW and was competing her beautiful horse Ceasy (imported from Holland and ridden for Australia at the Rio Paralympics). This group of people are very inspiring to me and their determination and 'can do' attitudes should be an example to all... they really do work extremely hard to achieve what they do.

Mum and I were very excited to see some of the top riders that week and watch them train and compete. To see the effort it takes to be at the top in our sport was truly amazing.

I would like to say a big thank you to my mum and dad for all their love and support, Preston Toyota for supplying a drive car for us while in Melbourne, Sharon Jarvis for helping me at the competition and all your other support, Leanne and Emmalee Weston for giving me a beautiful pony to ride and your support and hugs. I am very proud to say that Horseland Midland has now selected me as one of their new sponsored riders and look forward to being part of their amazing team.





Nicole Tough (QLD) Masterclass Sunday 18 March, Indoor Arena, SEC 12.30pm-2.30pm

Dressage WA is pleased to present a **FREE** Masterclass with visiting guest 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. She has 7 Australian titles and 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's 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.

Warm Up – Explaining the reasons and goals of the warm up

Transitions – explaining the importance of transitions in terms of building your Grand Prix dressage horse

Lateral Work – Explaining how to do it, why we do it, when do we do them and which ones for what

Advanced work –explaining exercises to reach advanced level and exercises at advanced level to progress to FEI

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



Important Dates for the Diary; DWA and DJTF

Preliminary (G) Novice (F) EA Dressage Judges Seminar

SEC, 7 April: 8.30am registration

Presenter Gill Botten, EA A level Judge, Judge Educator

This seminar will cover the first two levels of judging and will feature horses showing Preliminary & Novice work.

- Gill will cover how to become an EA Dressage judge. What is the role of the Dressage Judge?
- The Training Scale and how it relates to the progression within each test level.
- The collective marks and comments, with a special section on judging the Junior and Youth riders.
- What is the progression from Preliminary to Novice level. What does the judge look for in test riding?

This is a reaccreditation seminar for G level and F level judges at no cost. Introductory Seminar for potential judges, riders and coaches \$30 and trainees \$20 (must have passed ORBT).

EA Judges, riders, coaches all welcome. Suitable for Pony Club riders and judges, ARCA, Eventing Judges, Interschool. Please bring own lunch (no food heating facilities); local shops open. Morning/afternoon tea provided. Please pre-register with Gill Botten at botfam@iinet.net.au

DWA Awards and Social Night

Photos by Rebecca DeVries

You asked for more social events and we listened!

On Friday 23 February, DWA held the 2018 Awards and Social Night under the twinkling lights of the Chapel Farm courtyard. This event was well attended by about 90 riders, judges, coaches and dressage supporters, as well as representatives from Equestrian WA and its Board, who enjoyed a delicious array of finger food while catching up with old friends and making new ones.

New DWA Chair Suzanne Simons opened the evening by thanking outgoing committee members for their contribution and welcoming the new recruits for 2018. She then outlined some of DWA's exciting initiatives for 2018, including the new leaderboard and club incentive scheme.





Awards from the 2017 State Championships were then presented as follows:

Award	Criteria	Winner
Tim Weigall Memorial-Arabian Achievement Award	Arabian or Arabian derivative registered with the Arabian Horse Society of Australia that achieves the highest percentage in EA competitor, Para equestrian or FEI classes during the Competition	Brooke Sakich with HELMS DEEP WITCHCRAFT
El Caballo Perpetual Trophy	Horse and rider combination who achieves the highest percentage in an FEI class during the Competition	Louise Holland with REVELWOOD DONATELLO
Dressage WA Award	Horse and rider combination who achieves the highest percentage in a competitor class during the Competition	Elissa Forbes with ROYAL MAGIC
The Millionaire "Royal Doulton" Memorial	Registered thoroughbred who achieves the highest percentage in any competitor, pony, FEI or Para Equestrian classes during the Competition	Vaz McLaughlan with KOLORA STUD TRIPLE 8 Reserve: Maddison Georgiades with DOUBLE OH SEVEN
Thoroughbred Achievement Award	Thoroughbred horse which achieves the highest percentage in any Participant class during the Competition	Jane McCreedy with KIRKWALL BAY
The Australian Warmblood Horse Association Perpetual	Horse that is currently registered with the Association who achieves the highest percentage in any Competitor or FEI class during the Competition. The registered owner of the horse must be a current financial member of the Association	Elissa Forbes with ROYAL MAGIC
The Grand Espoir Perpetual Trophy	Australian bred Warmblood which obtains the highest score in any competitor or FEI classes	Elissa Forbes with ROYAL MAGIC
Benita Wilson Perpetual Trophy	Junior/Young Rider who achieves the highest percentage score in any Competitor or FEI class during the Competition (excepting Pony or Para equestrian)	Tyla Schou with DENNIS DENIRO
Steph Robson Memorial	PSG WA State Champion	Melanie Nixon with MATAVIA FISHER KING
The Don Philino WE Award	Pony and Rider combination who achieves the highest percentage in a Pony Class during the Competition	Jade McNaught with IMPERIAL PRINCE
Para Equestrian Championship	Para Equestrian combination who achieves the highest percentage in Para Equestrian classes during the Competition	Chelsea De Jonge with ASPEN WAY ROYAL GALA
Beelo-Bi Moondyne Joe Memorial Award	Pony who achieved the highest percentage in the highest level class during the competition	Emma Tirabosco with GENTEEL ROYAL FLAIR



The following annual awards were also presented during the evening:

- Horseland CHAMPION Young Dressage Horse: Emma Hayward and PENNY HILL PARK SAHARA
- Horseland CHAMPION Young Dressage Pony: Kelly Genge and WINDY HILL BIANCA
- Horseland CHAMPION Developing Young Dressage Horse or Pony: Steph Spencer with BENSONS BELINA
- Dressage WA Youth Challenge Winner: Chloe Moon and A'SEDUCTION



Top to bottom – (L) Chloe Moon and Steph Munro, (R) Horseland Midland representatives with Michelle James; (L) Emma Tirabosco and Sienna Bergersen, (R) Val Mayger and Chelsea de Jonge; (L) Melanie Nixon with Robin Allen and Judy Webber, (R) Ron Fleming and Jane Mcready



Top to bottom – (L) Val Mayger and Maddison Georgiades, (R) Dwight Pedlow and Louise Holland; (L) Brooke Sakich and Sheila Weigall