

Dressage WA Newsletter

October 2017

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The PHP Rising Star showed some real stars of the future and confirmed that dressage in WA is headed in the right direction. There are still lots of competitions and educational opportunities before the end of the year so don't go on holidays yet!

Do you have a great idea for the newsletter? Contact us at www.dressagewa.org.

Message from the DWA Chair - Gill Botten

It is good to see that a great deal has been happening in dressage in WA during the last few weeks. Many thanks to Michelle James and Penny Hill Park Stud for again sponsoring the Penny Hill Park Rising Star competition. It proved to be a great evening, showcasing some lovely young horses with the winning horse and pony posting good scores. Congratulations to all the Finalists.

Thanks are also due to Terrina Fairbrother and Project Neon for again sponsoring the FEI showcase. DWA is grateful to Tahlia Piper and Ally Doumany who has come forward to organize this event.

Last weekend 5 star FEI International dressage judge Susie Hoevenaars conducted two seminars at the SEC. These were well attended by many judges who enjoyed the content and clarification of judging that Susie passed on. Many thanks to our demonstration riders for both days. The interaction and discussion on both days was very productive.

Nominations for committee positions are opening this month so please consider coming on board and helping our sport by contributing your skills to the dressage committee.

Quote for the month:

"The goal of every rider is "oneness" with the horse. Oneness may mean something different for each of us who rides, but most would agree it is the feeling of co-ordination, balance and communication that comes when you and your horse are on the same wavelength and going in the same direction"

Anne Kurkinski "Rider's Fitness Program" 2004 Storey publishing USA

Gill Botten (Chair DWA)



Dressage Western Australia Committee Members

Chair - Gill Botten
Vice Chair – Tracy Spackman
Treasurer - Roslyn O'Halloran

Finance/Treasury – Roslyn O'Halloran
DWA budget management, DDF
accounts, purchase orders and
payments

Issue of Information – Leanne Pitcher
Website and Facebook

Correspondence - Gill
Botten/Suzanne Simons
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



It's nearly time for Masters of Dressage



Brett Parbery Clinic – SVDA

By Ally Doumany

Over the first weekend in August, the Swan Valley Dressage Association brought Brett Parbery, one of Australia's leading dressage riders, to the West Coast for a three-day clinic. Brett has represented the country on the international stage many times, making the short list for three olympic games, and competing at the World Equestrian Games where he placed in the top ten. Not only is he consistently successful in the dressage arena, but he is fast becoming a sought-after coach nation-wide.

Brett worked with a variety of horses and riders over the weekend, but all experienced a vast improvement during their lessons, and came away with lists of things to work on. Below is a brief summary of a few major learning points, which can be helpful for all riders.

Accuracy:

- Brett reminded us that a dressage test is written to be ridden accurately. You need to familiarise yourself with the exact dimensions of an arena, and of the movements required.
- He encouraged us to do the maths on the arena and movements, (a full size arena is 60x20, with the long side divided into sections from each corner – 6 metres – 12 metres – 12 metres – 12 metres – 6 metres). When you ride a 20 metre circle at A, you need to touch the wall again 4 metres past F, then touch the centre line 2 metres past L, and the wall again 4 metres before K.
- He also reminded us that the outside of your horse forms the outer edge of movements, i.e. a 20- metres

circle needs to be ridden with the outside of the horses body on the edge of the circle, not the inside.

Aids:

- Your aids should be kept sharp and precise, otherwise it can lead to your horse becoming dull. They should also be clear to the horse, so your trot aids aren't just stronger walk aids, otherwise you can create 'grey areas' for your horse and confusion.
- By keeping the aids clear, it is easier for you to reward the horse by taking the aid off when they do what you have asked. It is also easier for you to correct a mistake, as you can identify where the issue has come from.
- For training, don't be afraid to use your voice to complement your transitions. Just be sure that what you say is clear to the horse, don't confuse a "good boy" with "Whoa".

Structuring your training:

- Young horses don't need to be training difficult movements early on. Often focusing on long straight lines and circles can be more beneficial for developing their paces. Ride a circle, then adjust the tempo on the long side, shortening and lengthening the strides.
- A good 20 minute session is often adequate for a young horse.
- In all training, small attempts with a positive response will achieve a better end result, as you are able to clearly achieve and reward the horse. Rushing through a training stage only leaves gaps as the movements get harder.



Julie Dammers and Jem with Brett Parbery

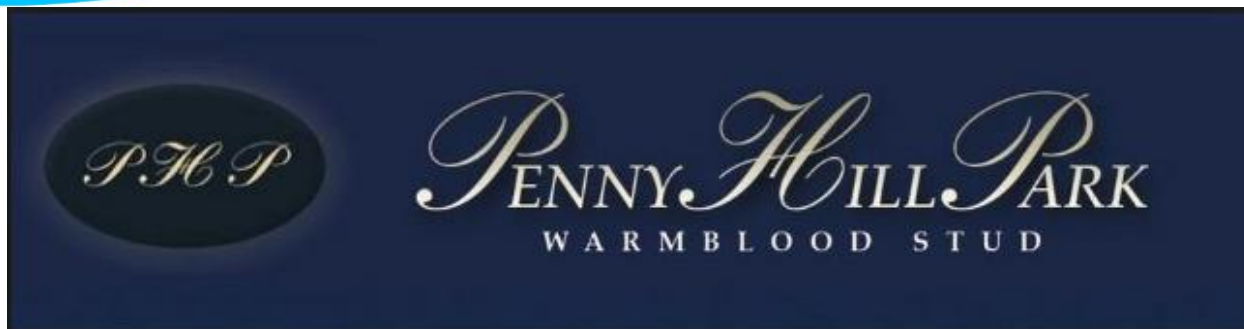


A big thank-you to the Swan Valley Dressage Association for organising such a wonderful clinic and bringing such a high-calibre coach over here, and also to Julie Dammers for hosting the event. Hopefully this will be the start of a great relationship between the West Coast and one of Australia's top riders and coaches.



Top L-R Karene Primrose and Jasper, Sonya Liddle and Grande Cavalier Bottom L-R Ally Doumany and Rolston R, Shree Jones and Colorado Jed,





Penny Hill Park Rising Star Award

September 29th 2017

Photos by Eric Lloyd Photography

This award is for horse and pony "newcomers" competing in their first year of Competitive Dressage. The Penny Hill Park Dressage Rising Star Final showcased the talent in WA of horses and ponies, young and old who make the move into Competitive Dressage. The Penny Hill Park Rising Star competition was held at the Mid-week Dressage Competition on the 29th September 2017 and was judged by Susan Hoevenaars and Hannie Byrne.

Rising Star Horse Winner

Royal Magic

(Royal Hit x Bloomfield Jazzmin - Warmblood)

Ridden by Elissa Forbes



Rising Star Pony Winner

Imperial Prince

(Imperial Justify x Imperial Picture That – Welsh B)

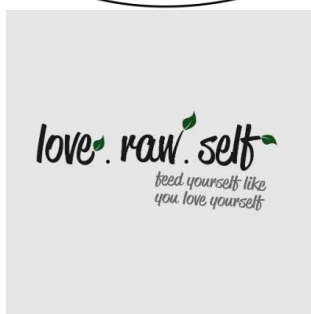
Ridden by Jade McNaught





Project Neon FEI Showcase

State Equestrian Centre – International Arena
14th October 2017
Medium to Grand Prix plus Para-Equestrian classes
Entries open on Nominate





Brought to you by the DWA Dressage Judge's Taskforce

MASTERS OF DRESSAGE



Special guest
Virginia Creed



with
STEPHEN CLARKE

FEI 5* OLYMPIC DRESSAGE JUDGE

Saturday 11 November 6.30pm SEC

Food outlets and bar available.
VIP tickets available.

Tickets from \$35. On sale Now.

Visit www.trybooking.com to buy your tickets today! (search Masters of Dressage)

PROJECT NEON



\$2 from every ticket will go to support the Raising Hope Charity



FOR BOOKINGS GO TO WWW.DRESSAGEWA.ORG



Masters of Dressage – Stephen Clarke FEI 5* Judge

DWA Dressage Judges Taskforce Presents

Masters of Dressage Freestyle to Music Masterclass - 11th November 2017 SEC 6.30pm -9.30pm

The evening promises to be full of beautiful horses, music provided by talented musicians and a few surprises.

Stephen Clarke will be joined by guest judge music specialist Ginny Creed. Together they will show how music enhances performance.

Stephen will show how the experts gain marks in the degree of difficulty.

Join us for this unique experience.

We are proud to support The Raising Hope Charity (WA)

Bar open, food outlets, prices from \$35 Tickets Try Booking

VIP Dinner limited numbers please book early \$80 Bookings open.



DWA Dressage Judges Taskforce Presents

Masters of Dressage Symposium 12th November SEC 10am – 2pm

Stephen will work through the levels of training and show how this relates to coaches riders and judges.

- Stepping stones to higher levels, introducing piaffe passage. "There should be no gaps in training no weakness" S .C.
- Clear communication & understanding will produce the best in performance.
- The Happy Athlete - Two Hearts

Spectators will be invited to stay on and watch the final judging of the Horseland Young Horse EA Qualifier hosted by Perth dressage Club Chief Judge Stephen Clarke.



Food outlets

Tickets from EWA member: \$44

Non-EWA member: \$55



DWA Invitation Youth Challenge hosted by WADYRA

The Youth Challenge is proudly supported by DWA. The competition provides a pathway for 2017 EWA competitive riders Medium and above 16 -25 Years to compete at EA National level.

1st Round - EA Medium Test, 10th November, 3pm SEC, International arena.

2nd Round - FEI Test, 11th November, 3pm SEC Indoor arena, chief judge Stephen Clarke

Spectators welcome. Support our talented riders of the future.

Thanks to our winner from 2015 Stephanie Spencer/Redskin, Steph Munro and the rest of the WADYRA committee for hosting this prestigious event.



The WA Dressage Young Riders Association (WADYRA) is a club dedicated to young riders 25 years and under wanting to succeed or improve in dressage. The club provides test riding every rally with an EA judge in addition to lessons with our head coach, Steph Spencer, catered to improving the skills of both horse and rider. Our members are a range of ages and riding levels, from a range of disciplines. The club aims to promote the highest ideal of sportsmanship and good fellowship amongst our members, creating an encouraging atmosphere through which riders may develop their skills.

Horseland Masters Of Dressage YH Events with FEI 5* Judge, FEI Judge General Stephen Clarke Hosted by Perth Dressage Club 12th November 2017

Horseland Masters of Dressage EA Young Horse qualifier 4, 5, 6 & 7 year olds

Run under EA Rules for Dressage 2017 YH Qualifier

We see this as a unique opportunity to give competitors the experience of riding under WA, Eastern States and International judges in a local environment.

For entries and more information contact Perth Dressage Club

Horseland Masters of Dressage Young Horse Development Competition 4, 5, 6 year olds

Aim is to help owners, riders, breeders of Dressage horses in WA to become familiar with the concept of young horse competitions.

We see this as a unique opportunity for our local riders to experience Young Horse competition.

For entries and more information contact Perth Dressage Club





Brought to you by the DWA Dressage Judge's Taskforce

MASTERS OF DRESSAGE SYMPOSIUM



**STEPHEN CLARKE
2017**

FEI 5* OLYMPIC DRESSAGE JUDGE
Sunday 12 November SEC



PROJECT NEON



FOR BOOKINGS GO TO WWW.DRESSAGEWA.ORG



From The Judges' Box

Good Judging Practice for Eventing Competitions produced by Judy Harvey and Nick Burton

1. There is no difference whatsoever in the scale of training for the event horse from the dressage horse. You are still evaluating the training, basic paces, and presentation of a dressage test.
2. However in a Dressage Competition (with the exception of Team Events) the winner is the winner and the margin of the result is not critical. In eventing the dressage score is a platform from which the well-presented dressage test should gain an advantage in the other phases ahead. The margins are important and for this reason the whole range of the scale of marks should be used where appropriate.
3. Event horses have to jump and gallop; consequently they develop a different musculature to dressage horses. They will rarely be able to show the looseness characteristic of the Grand Prix horse and therefore their paces are unlikely to be as extravagant. This should be taken into consideration.
4. Event horses are very fit and sharp enough to run for their lives. Minor disobedience and keenness should not be punished too severely.
5. Arenas at events are often on unsuitable going and are not even or level. The going can deteriorate considerably between the first and last competitors. Horses should not be heavily penalised for a minor loss of rhythm, particularly if this occurs crossing a rutted centre line. Distractions such as close proximity to the show jumping and cross country should also be taken into account. Ask yourself "is it reasonable to expect anything better in these circumstances and environment" If a horse is presented showing good training and way of going and does cope with the environment then it should be rewarded with very high marks. Remember 10 is only excellent.
6. Bold accurate riding should be rewarded. Of course they should be marked fairly. Judges' comments should always be made in a positive, helpful and understanding manner with an appreciation of the skills required to produce these all round athletes.