



Dressage WA Newsletter

September 2017

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Do you think there is a current lack of competitions? If so, perhaps you could volunteer to help run an event. You get to meet lots of fun and interesting people and help out your sport at the same time. Be part of great initiatives in dressage.

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

Message from the DWA Chair - Gill Botten

With many competitions surviving wet and windy conditions, it is good to see dressage riders managed to compete in the last very wintry month! Planning is well under way for Stephen Clarke's visit in November so keep watching the website for updates.

DWA is looking forward to hosting 5-star International dressage judge, Susie Hoevenaars, at the end of September when she will be judging protocol tests, official tests and the final of the Penny Hill Park Rising Star. Riders, coaches, judges and observers will also have the opportunity to benefit from her vast amount of dressage knowledge at the C/D and A/B seminars conducted over the weekend of 30 September – 1 October at the SEC.

It is coming to that time of year when elections will take place for committee members in all disciplines. If you would like to contribute to the sport of dressage, please think seriously about joining the friendly, cohesive, hardworking dressage committee. Details will be on the EA website in due course.

Quote for the month:

"I would never demand that my students do anything that they don't want to do. Making a decision, however to give up certain things in one part of your life, to focus on success, is an admirable attribute."

Monty Roberts-preface to Perfect Confidence" by Kelly Marks Ebury press 2007

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



Dressage Seminars with FEI5* judge Susie Hoevenaars

Susie has spent much of her time overseas this year, not only judging some of the world's top horse and rider combinations but also training international judges.

Don't miss the opportunity to learn from Susie. Riders competing at the levels may apply to ride for Susie. Judges, coaches and riders are invited to attend two dressage days with Susie at the end of month. It will be held at the SEC.

30 September: NOAS D/C levels: Susie will cover requirements for the Medium and Advanced tests. What to look for in training and the progress to test riding. The development of flying changes, canter pirouettes etc.

1 October NOAS A/B levels: PSG to GP requirements at each level. The building blocks to produce quality in the work. The development of sequence changes to piaffe & passage.

Everyone welcome but please pre-register - elaine_greene@westnet.com.au



Brought to you by the DWA Dressage Judge's Taskforce

MASTERS OF DRESSAGE



FEI 5* OLYMPIC DRESSAGE JUDGE
Saturday 11 November | Sunday 12 November
STATE EQUESTRIAN CENTRE



From the Judges' Box

By DJTF

FEI 5* Judge Stephen Clarke is returning to WA in November 2017. Stephen enjoyed his last visit and will once again present a Masterclass (11.11.17) and a Dressage Symposium. (12.11.17). The Masterclass will include freestyle to music with Stephen outlining some of the key elements required to produce a good test. The Symposium will look more closely at the training of the horse, especially the young horse. It will focus on how the horse should be working through the levels and how we can enjoy the horse and produce the 'Happy Athlete'. Stephen will also give us an insight into his life of travel and judging throughout the world. Stephen would like the symposium to be interactive, with questions submitted ahead of time so that discussion points can be made.

Judges will have the opportunity to work with Stephen throughout the trip. We will be able to benefit by his experience not only as a judge but also as a trainer and rider.

Stephen will judge the final of the DWA HP Invitation Youth Challenge, which this year will be hosted by WAYDRA. More information to follow.

Stephen is keen to promote the correct training of our up-and-coming young dressage horses and will also judge the final rounds of a Young Horse Event. More details on this to be announced soon.

Members of the Dressage Judges Taskforce are excited at once again being able to bring Stephen to EWA and the SEC and we invite everyone to get involved and support us in this venture.

Elaine Greene on behalf of DJTF: Wendy, Hannie, Gill, Hazel, Marg, Polly and Didy.

Henty Winter Dressage Championships 2017

By Liz Tollarzo

On 5 and 6 August 2017, Henty Riding Club Inc held its annual Henty Winter Dressage Championships in Dardanup for the 6th year in a row.

With tests from preparatory to Grand Prix on offer, there were many competitors taking advantage of the two days to consolidate and push the training of their horses whilst having access to such well wonderful facilities for both horse and rider. The grounds offered good camping for those looking for an overnight stay and the local pub had an excellent special for dinner on offer which was well supported on Saturday night!

Although this year did not include pony club tests, there were 300 tests entered over the two days, making for a full program. Freestyles were not compulsory this year but it was great to see that some



Boy and Chelsea De Jonge - Medium Pony Champion



riders still took the time and effort to perform their dressage to music for the spectators – always a crowd favourite! Henty Riding Club had many sponsors supporting the Championships, with many very generous prizes and rugs on offer for those successful over the weekend.

Visiting Eastern States judge Mary Seefried, a FEI 5* judge gave those riders who had the privilege of her judging their tests some invaluable advice and tips for improving their performances. Mary commented later that she was impressed and very happy how horse and rider combinations in WA are improving, with riders showing increased attention to the training scale and developing ring craft such as setting up for movements to allow the horse to perform at its best. She said that over this weekend of judging she can see the improvements, although riders could still improve marks by continuing this focus and riding still more accurately to the markers and the beginning and end of each required movement in the tests. Over 10 of our own Western Australian judges worked hard over the weekend and it was great to see that the scores from those judging alongside Mary were very similar in marks - allowing riders to gauge how they would compare with competitors over east!

In the participant classes there were many scratchings on the day, however we saw some lovely up and coming horses with the champion Preliminary and Novice being awarded to Nina Johnson riding Taunton Vale Cosentino. Julie Marshall riding Belvedere Bells N Whistles was close behind, having been separated by a countback score!

Henty members were able to compete in their own classes, which resulted in Teresa Horsfall riding Brookdale park Magic Touch winning the Preliminary Championship with Jacinta Pope and Feel the Roth just missing out on another countback score. Henty members Novice Champion was won by Lucy Lycholit riding Elite Fashionista. Best presented off the track went to Dan ridden by Annabel Lotze and highest % OTT was awarded to Feel the Roth ridden by Jacinta Pope.

There were quite a few ponies competing over the weekend and it was great to see there were entries up to and including advanced level. Both the Preliminary and Novice Champion went to Windy Hill Bianca ridden by Kelly Genge, making it a very successful weekend for this combination. Elementary Champion went to the striking bay cob Primrose Park Red Fox and Kerry Dyjak on a countback, closely followed by Colleen Ann Jackson riding her very attractive stallion, Pav Nespresso, and Boy ridden by Chelsea De Jonge. Medium Champion went to Boy ridden by Chelsea De Jonge and the Advanced Championship was awarded to Jessica Bartlett and Penley Geometric.

The competitive Preliminary Champion went to the beautiful black Friesian, Fenne SR, ridden by Tashlin Jeffries – this class was not overly large in numbers but was high in quality with some very promising combinations performing some lovely tests.

The Novice Championship was awarded to Karen Spice and the extremely attractive chestnut gelding, Macarthur Rasta, who had some issues with a bee sting on the Saturday yet still managed to get his tests done and then recovered enough to pull out some super tests on the Sunday! This was another tie in points for the Championship, with Penny Lee riding Landaluka just missing out on the countback. It was wonderful to see how



Tashlyn Jeffries and Fenne SR - Preliminary Champion



many novice riders did freestyles, providing entertainment for the spectators and at the same time some lovely music to assist the other riders riding their tests.

Sonia Horsfall and Brookdale Park Ltd Edition were Elementary Champions and Medium Champion went to Teagan Sutton riding some lovely tests on her eye catching gelding Amberville Rosenstein.

The advanced class showed some strong competition, with many combinations juggling in the placings for both classes – resulting in Louise Hillman riding Lord Louie being Advanced Champion on a countback closely followed by Kristy Kabaznow and her elegant mare Heatherton Park Ma Cherie.

The Small tour championship was another hotly contested title – this went to the big grey gelding, Everton Park Jet Blauw D, owned by Pam Page and ridden by Liz Tollarzo. The only entry in the Large Tour classes and resulting Large Tour Champion was awarded to Santus ridden by Rebecca Tsouris. This combination did some lovely tests with much potential for the future and it was a real treat to see these higher tests performed for other competitors to see as much as it was for the spectators.

Amazing weather this year for this amazing competition which will certainly encourage those regular competitors as well as new ones to keep an eye out in 2018 for this two day country show!



*Karen Spice and Macarthur Rasta -
Novice Champion*



Hartpury Festival of Dressage 2017

By Wendy Barker

Hartpury Dressage Festival in beautiful Gloucestershire is always a fabulous show with lots of world class horses on show. This year it was even bigger & better than ever!

It is quite amazing how Phillip Cheetham, Equine Director of the College, manages Hartpury's Festival of Dressage which seems to grow every year. This year 421 horses competed in 688 tests, 389 rosettes were presented at prize giving ceremonies. Riders from 19 nations represented their countries, and Hartpury hosted 55 officials from 13 nations!

Hartpury University is the world's largest equine education centre, offering a range of undergraduate and postgraduate degrees, and boasting multi-million pound facilities such as the Equine Therapy Centre and a Centre for Rider Performance including the most advanced riding simulator in the world, a strength and conditioning suite, and examination and treatment rooms. It hosts more than 60 equine competitions each year.

My first trip to Hartpury was 10 years ago, to complete my FEI 3* PE Judge's exams which were held at the World Para Dressage Championships. That year, Gloucestershire experienced massive flooding which besieged many of us on the main campus. The world headline flooding made it incredibly challenging for everyone, with all outdoor arenas completely flooded and unusable.

The CDI riders held a rider meeting & very magnanimously chose to give up all their classes to enable the World Para Dressage Championships to continue (there are 3 indoor arenas). No one was actually able to get into or out of the campus because it is on a high hill, that was temporarily surrounded by a huge 'moat'! Overcoming seemingly insurmountable obstacles, Hartpury ran an amazing event, & Princess Haya, President of FEI at the time, flew in by helicopter to award World Championship medals and to shake hands with judges like myself who were kindly provided with temporary student dorm accommodation, and successfully completed our FEI Judge examinations at the World Championships!

Hartpury's Festival of Dressage incorporates many sought after championships, including –

A CDI3*

A CPEDI3*

The National Premier League Championship

The Elite Stallions PSG Championship

The British Dressage Pony Championship

In addition, British Dressage Judge Training, convened by some of the most highly respected dressage judges in the world.

Hartpury this year was the twentieth international FEI PE Dressage event I have judged at, and this year was my fifth time judging at this wonderful event.

Another activity held at Hartpury which I was fortunate to be invited to was research on perceptions of FEI. There were many highlights of the week at the Festival. One was Valegro – he is one in a million – producing another spectacular performance in an auditorium where it was standing room only, followed by pearls of wisdom from Carl. Another was Sophie Wells' Freestyle on the beautiful Fatal Attraction in the Grade IV, Sophie has a special talent for Freestyle, and showed a wonderful picture of harmony & interpretation of her gorgeous music. Another was a truly exquisite Grade I Freestyle by Laurentia Tan (whose family I first met judging in Singapore in 2003), on the very elegant Fuerst Sherlock for 77%. The last was watching Charlotte Dujardin riding Mount St John Freestyle in the packed auditorium in the Young Horse PSG Championship, such an exciting prospect!



Meet a Committee Member - Leanne Pitcher

Leanne recently joined the DWA committee to manage the website and Facebook page. Leanne has been integral in the progression of pony dressage as a growing equestrian sport in WA and manages to juggle her own busy media and communications consultancy with riding and competing her pony.



Above: Leanne and Spring in one of their first Competitive Novice Pony tests
Below: Spring's first beach trip



I started riding when I was around 10 and living in England. My best friend and I started with weekly lessons and some time later my parents bought me my first pony, who was a chunky cob type. She was a pretty naughty pony but I used to ride her bareback on the village green and I still have the only rosette we ever won from the local gymkhana!

When I was 13 my family moved to Australia and I pretty much stopped riding (other than the occasional hire-a-horse trail ride with my friends or my dad) until after I'd married and had kids. Luckily, I met a few people through work who were 'horsey' and I guess this reignited my passion.

I returned to riding lessons at around the age of 30 – basically a beginner again - then eventually bought my first horse as an adult. Like many, I didn't make the smartest decision as a beginner owner - buying a \$400 ex-racehorse called Evil (the name should have put me off, but it didn't!). I've had a few horses since Evil left me to be a station horse, including an older TB mare who gave me the opportunity to try many things and a young stock horse gelding who is now enjoying a career in eventing, but it's my beautiful Welsh Cob Spring (Cwmkaren Springtime) who has truly wrapped herself around my heart.

Spring came to me from the middle of nowhere in South Australia, having been a broodmare before being broken in at six-and-a-half and ridden only at home for a year. I think I fell in love with her before I went to see her – she was such an eye-catching, typical Welsh Cob. At just a smidge under 14h, she's as wide as she is tall and some people thought I'd be too big for her (I'm just over 5'11"). I'm not... riding Spring is just like riding a bigger horse, only closer to the ground (which helps if you fall off!). I think this is largely why the Welshies are becoming so popular. They can carry height and weight and they have the most amazing personalities.

I bought Spring with a view to pursuing pony dressage, and we are slowly finding our way in between trail riding and trips to the beach in summer. While not perfectly conformed – she's a little long and with a slight downhill tendency – she tries so hard and we are both enjoying the journey together. I remember when she first came to me she had one speed – go – so we've worked hard to get her to understand 'slow'. It's coming along slowly, but we're in no rush. I'm just happy to keep training and see where it takes us. This year we have moved into Novice (Pony Competitive) and so far the judges' comments have indicated we are improving, for which I sincerely thank all the people who have helped me along the way.



It's great to see Pony Dressage classes in WA continuing to grow and I am keen to support and encourage this area of our sport.

Thankfully, DWA and EWA have both supported the retention of mandatory pony classes at competitive competitions - despite an Eastern States push to make them optional for organisers - and I think this is paying off. One day I'd also love to see Participant Pony classes at all official competitions - to give pony riders the option of choosing their level - but for now I think we are certainly on the right track.

I can honestly say getting back into riding has enhanced my life in so many ways. It has given me an amazing group of friends with whom I have shared some incredible riding experiences and blessed me with the most incredible four-legged partner. There's no way I could give it up now....I plan on being like the Queen.....still riding in my 90s!



Making memories with friends on a Snowy Mountains trip in 2011





Leon Baker Classic 2017

By GCEC Dressage Sub Committee



Left to right - Teagan Sutton and Amberville Rosenstien, Shain Forth of Leon Baker Jeweller's and Kerry Dyjak and Primrose Park Red Fox

Saturday 12th & Sunday 13th August saw Geraldton Combined Equestrian Club hold the Leon Baker Dressage Classic for 2017. Unfortunately the weather was not kind to those who rode on the Saturday, however full credit must be given to horses, riders and volunteers who battled through torrential rain and wind. Our Eastern States judges in Veronica Steward and Barrie Stratton were very complementary on the standard of horses presented, along with known Perth judge Margaret Thwaites.

Our major prize of a beautiful diamond set and pearl pendant kindly donated by Shain and Elise Forth of Leon Baker Jewellers for the highest aggregate over the weekend (Novice & above) was awarded to Teagan Sutton riding her own Amberville Rosenstien. It was great to have the pair back on their

home soil and really pleasing to see how this partnership has developed. Teagan also took out the Medium Champion sponsored by Saddles Plus, along with Advanced Champion Horse proudly sponsored by Geraldton Combined Equestrian Club. Our other major prize, again being sponsored by Shain and Elise Forth of Leon Baker Jewellers was won by Kerry Dyjak on Primrose Park Red Fox. This was also awarded to the highest aggregate for ponies over the 2 days. Kerry also won Novice Champion Pony (sponsored by Leon Baker Jewellers) along with Elementary Champion proudly sponsored by Geraldton Combined Equestrian Club. Not to stop there, Kerry was also awarded Smartest Dressage Pony proudly sponsored by Rogue Pony of Geraldton.

Other class Champions were: Preliminary Pony Lauren Rowe riding Charisma Royal Emblym sponsored by Bubbles Gas & Plumbing. Trapalander Brigadeer and Steph Munro also made the trip to take off Medium Small Tour for the weekend, again being sponsored by Leon Baker Jewellers.

Coral Coast Homes of Geraldton/Midwest sponsored the champion Preliminary Horse which was taken out by Eliza Hebiton riding her lovely Revelwood Olivia. Revelwood Olivia also won Best Presented Dressage Horse, again sponsored by Steph Johnson of Rogue Pony. Vanessa Dunstan was awarded Novice Champion Horse riding Foxleigh Scimitar proudly sponsored by local stock feeders, Stockyard Stock Supplies. Bubbles Plumbing & Gas also sponsored the Elementary Champion Horse winners Eliza Hebiton and EBL Rozario. It was great to have a few city riders making the trek, and for her efforts Majorie Radford took out the Champion Small Tour again being sponsored by a local in Geraldton Stockfeed & Pet Supplies. Our Medium Tour Champion Horse was sponsored by Rogue Pony of Geraldton and won by the lovely Melanie Nixon (a previous Leon Baker Champion winner) and Matavia King Fisher.

Highest % over the weekend and sponsored by Classic Accounting Plus of 73.269 went to the deserving Vanessa Dunstan riding Foxleigh Scimitar. Close to the hearts of many, the Gaenor McInness Memorial Trophy for the Junior/Young Rider gaining the highest % was awarded to Eliza Hebiton on Revelwood Olivia on 70.217%. Highest % for local rider was also Eliza Hebiton with Trevor and Kerry Evans of Auto Pit Stop sponsoring



this very sort after award. Ross Newman Accessing (Chairperson of GCEC) for the highest % over the weekend by a pony was won by the very talented Lauren Rowe riding the little pocket rocket Charisma Royal Emblym on 68.913%. Judges choice awards were won by three deserving riders in Melanie Nixon, Steph Munro and Teagan Sutton. Huge "Congratulations" to all recipients and their mounts.

Once again Geraldton Combined Equestrian Club Leon Baker Sub Committee would sincerely like to thank all sponsors, volunteers and riders for being part of a wonderful event. Special mention to Shain and Elise Forth for their continued support, not only in the discipline of Dressage but also Showjumping and Geraldton Combined Equestrian Club. Looking forward to next year already, don't forget to pencil it in now!



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

