



DRESSAGE
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Dressage WA Newsletter

August 2018

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Welcome to our August Newsletter! With winter and its weather well and truly established, the good news is that we are over half-way through.

Entries for our 2018 State Championships at the end of this month are now closed, and we have had a great response, with over 500 tests to be ridden. The provisional schedule is up on the website, and one of the exciting fixtures is the Dressage Freestyle to Music High Tea. This is set to be a fantastic event, so head to <https://www.trybooking.com/book/event?eid=407947> to secure your tickets.

We have another great edition of "From the Judges Box" this month, focusing on turn on the haunches/walk pirouettes, with feedback from Elaine Greene. You may have also seen that Carl Hester hosted a Masterclass at the Brisbane CDI, and we were lucky enough to have some spies in the crowd, who have been kind enough to share their notes with us.

There are lots of great competitions coming up in the back half of the year, including the inaugural Grass Roots Championships and the Pony Dressage showcase. Keep reading to find out more, and happy riding to you all.

WA State Dressage Championships

Dressage Freestyle to music High Tea

Upstairs Balcony - Indoor Stadium
State Equestrian Centre Brigadoon
2:00pm Saturday 1 September
Price \$444 per table of 8 or \$55 per person

Enjoy watching Western Australia's top dressage combinations competing for the title of State Champion dance to music in the serene Indoor Stadium while served delicious High Tea. Glass of Champagne on arrival included

Book Tickets - www.trybooking.com



Penny Hill Park Rising Star Award 2018

Final Event | 24 November 2018 | State Equestrian Centre

To be held in conjunction with the Grass Roots Dressage Championships (more info on page 8)

The Penny Hill Park Rising Star Award is an exciting award which acknowledges the success and potential of horses and ponies starting their journey in competitive dressage. Their eligibility is not limited by their age, as the award is for “newcomers”, or those competing in their first year of EA competitive dressage. It is generously sponsored by Penny Hill Park Warmblood stud.

The qualification period for 2018's award is 1 August 2017 to 3 September 2018, so there is still an opportunity to qualify for the final.

Award Criteria

- ❖ The rider of the horse or pony must be a current Competitor Senior or Competitor Junior member of EWA.
- ❖ Qualifications must be achieved by one horse/pony and rider combination. The same combination must compete in the final.
- ❖ Qualifications must be achieved in Competitive graded dressage competitions in the qualifying period.
- ❖ Horses and ponies must be registered with EWA and hold a current Dressage Competition License.
- ❖ A horse/pony must complete their first Competitive competition during the qualifying period.
- ❖ Hors Concours (HC) scores will not be accepted.
- ❖ At least two of the scores must be from novice dressage tests.
- ❖ The 15 highest horse and pony qualifiers will be selected for the finals. If more than 15 qualify, the 15 finalists will be selected by calculating their 4 best aggregate scores. In the event of a tie in qualifying, the additional horse/pony will be eligible to compete.
- ❖ Where an eligible combination is unable to compete in the final, the next highest qualifying combination on the list will be eligible to compete.
- ❖ The winner will be awarded an embroidered rug and a trophy. All finalists will receive rosettes/sashes. A Perpetual Trophy will be displayed at the EWA office at the State Equestrian Centre.



2017 Winners:

Horse: *Royal Magic*
Ridden by Elissa Forbes
(pictured far left)

Pony: *Imperial Prince*
Ridden by Jade McNaught
(pictured left)

Photos by Eric Lloyd Photography



From the Judges Box

Turn on Haunches and the Walk Pirouette

With Elaine Greene

Elaine Greene is not only a member of our judge task force, she is a C level judge, judge mentor and National Para Equestrian Judge.

Firstly, a reminder of what we are aiming for in a turn on the haunches / half-pirouette:

As per the rulebook - these movements aim to show the willingness of the horse to turn around the inside hind leg on a radius equal to the length of the horse, slightly bent in the direction of the turn, while maintaining the activity and the clear four-beat rhythm of the walk.

For the less experienced horse that is not able to collect the walk, the turn on haunches is an exercise to prepare the horse for collection. It is executed out of the medium walk rather than collected walk and the turn can be executed on a larger radius than the walk pirouette.

For both movements, the rider should prepare using half halts to shorten the steps a little and to improve the ability to bend the joints of the hind quarters. The horse should remain fluent before, during and after the movement, it should maintain an even and pure rhythm and regularity, show suppleness laterally and longitudinally, remain soft into an elastic contact and maintain activity in the walk.

What are some of the most common faults seen during these movements?

Some common faults seen during these movements are due to a lack of preparation or incorrect positioning from the rider, resulting in a loss of activity and purity of the walk, the hind legs become 'stuck' and grounded, the quarters swing out, the bend is lost and / or the horse may step backward or sideways.

You may see the comment 'swinging around the centre' on your test sheet – visualise a large post at the centre point of the movement. That post should be at the hindquarters, with the shoulders moving around that point. If you move that post to where the rider sits – as you'd see on a carousel horse, the horse will have to swing out his quarters as well as the shoulders in order to change the direction.

What are some tips for training this movement?

In training, the rider must first ensure the horse understands the exercise. He should be able to lengthen and shorten the walk whilst keeping the purity and activity with the hind legs under. He should remain supple to both reins and be able to bend in both directions evenly and correctly through the whole body.

When introducing the movement, begin with quarter turns, ensuring the quality of the walk is maintained before progressing to a half turn.

Try to introduce the movement out of a shoulder fore positioning. This develops the suppleness to the bend and helps to encourage the activity in the walk before the turn.

Training Exercise

Set up a box at home using poles on the ground. Walk in a shoulder-fore position along the poles (positioned towards the pole), when the horse's hindlegs reach the end of the pole (the corner of your box), gently bring his shoulders around in a quarter turn and repeat the movement. This will give you a clear indication of whether your horse is truly moving around the hindlegs or whether he is swinging out as you will lose your position along the pole if he is not carrying out the movement correctly.



Dates for the diary

- ❖ 18 & 19 August: Geraldton Combined Equestrian [Competitor, Participant, Pony, YH, Interschools, FEI]
- ❖ 17 – 19 August: PCAWA Dressage Championships
- ❖ 18 August: South West Dressage Judges & Riders Seminar
- ❖ 23 August: DWA Dressage Protocol Event
- ❖ 24 & 25 August: DWA Dressage Event
- ❖ **31, 1 & 2 September – State Dressage Championships**
- ❖ 2 September: Orange Grove Unofficial Dressage Day
- ❖ 8 & 9 September: Swan River Dressage Inc [Competitor, Participant, Closed Restricted, FEI Classes]
- ❖ 9 September – Dressage Association WA Training Day
- ❖ 15 & 16 September: Brookleigh Dressage Club [Participant, Pony, FEI]
- ❖ 16 September: Geraldton Combined Equestrian [Competitor, Participant, Pony, YHC, Interschool]
- ❖ 22 & 23 September – Brookleigh Dressage Club [Competitor, Pony, FEI]
- ❖ 23 September – Bunbury H & PC [Competitor, Participant, Pony, Interschool, FEI]

For more information see the DWA website and Nominate

What are some tips for riders to help them ride the movement well?

The rider must ensure their position is correct throughout the movement. Remember your shoulders affect the horse's shoulders, so you must make sure your upper body position is encouraging the horse's shoulders to come around the hind legs by turning into the direction of the movement – making sure you are not collapsing or dragging the horse around with your inside rein.

The outside leg sits slightly behind the girth to prevent the quarters swinging out, but the inside leg (so often forgotten by riders) is key – you must keep your inside leg on the girth, to help develop the bend, and activate the inside leg in time with your horse's inside hind to maintain the activity.

Finally – make sure you finish the movement! Many riders get near the end and let the horse either lose activity or straighten out before the turn is completed - you must ride the movement right to the final step before straightening and moving forward.

A big thank you to Elaine for taking the time to share her expertise with us.

The Noticeboard

World Equestrian Games 2018

The World Equestrian Games are just around the corner, running from the 10 – 23 September. They are being held at Tryon World Equestrian Centre in North Carolina, USA.

Australia has recently announced the dressage riders who will represent the country at the games. They are:

Mary Hanna – *Boogie Woogie 6* (owned by Mary & Rob Hanna)

Alexis Hellyer – *Bluefields Floreno* (owned by JJ Fuchs)

Kristy Oatley – *Du Soleil* (owned by Rosalind & Robert Oatley)

Brett Parbery – *DP Weltmieser* (owned by Susan Duddy)

Emma Booth (Para-Equestrian) – *Mogelvangs Zidane* (owned by Emma Booth)

There is currently an appeal in relation to July's WEG dressage selection policy, which was heard by the Equestrian Australia Appeals Panel on 1 August. This panel is chaired by Warwick Hunt. The appeal comes from Mrs Judy Dierks, and we look forward to hearing the result.

Emma Booth is the sole Para-Equestrian representative, as for the first time Australia will not be sending a Para team.





Dressage WA's Development Series is pleased to bring you...
State Championships Warm-up & Educational Event

Come and Join us in August!

August - Thursday 23, Friday 24 & Saturday 25 - Indoor Arena, SEC

This is a fantastic opportunity to familiarise your horse and ride through your tests to maximise your scores at the States!

Tests on offer:

All .2 & .3s,
FEI,
Freestyles
Para-Equestrian
Participant/Adult Rider

Freestyles, Freestyles, Freestyles!

Practise your freestyle indoors & check your timing on the surface.

Education:

This event will also feature free mini-seminars on useful topics such as competition rules, warm-up etiquette & how to maximise marks.

Entries via Nominate, now open!

<https://www.nominate.com.au/EquestDn/Event.aspx?event=12329&eventlist=2>

Event Program:

Thursday 23 Aug:

.2 Tests – Competition for all levels Competitor & Participant/Adult Rider
PSG, Inter A, Inter II
Para Equestrian

Friday 24 Aug:

Training tests all levels
Inter I, Inter B, Grand Prix
Freestyle Tests EA

Saturday 25 Aug:

.3 Tests – Competition for all levels, Competitor & Participant/Adult Rider
Freestyle Tests FEI – (Training only due to judge availability)



PROUDLY PRESENTS THE INAUGURAL PONY DRESSAGE SHOWCASE

Sunday November 11, 2018

8.30am-4pm

Featuring Competitor and Participant Pony classes



Location: C-Quest Arena, State Equestrian Centre, Cathedral Avenue, Brigadoon

Tests: Prep B & C (Participant only), EA 2s and 3s Preliminary to Advanced.
FEI tests upon request.



Pony Dressage Showcase

- Championships awarded for highest combined score from two tests at the same level in Competitor and Participant classes
- Special awards for Junior (8-16) and Young Riders (17-21)

Enter online via [Nominate](#) from Monday 17 September 2018 (closing 22 October or when classes are full): \$40 for first test (incl. \$5 SEC levy), \$35 for second test plus DDF levies & \$25 non-refundable helper fee per horse.

Enquiries: Wanda Fleckhammer
Ph: 0481 190 699
Email: fleckhammer@iinet.net.au

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Words from the Master

British Dressage star Carl Hester gave an inspiring masterclass at the Brisbane CDI on 21 July and was very impressed with the quality of the horse and rider combinations he worked with. Here are some of Carl's top tips.....

- * Don't beat yourself up if you are not getting the great scores from your young horse at the beginning. The 9-10 scoring walk, for example, may just take time to develop, provided it has a good one to start with.
- * When buying a young horse, look for a good canter. You can always improve the trot.
- * It's better to have a horse who is heavy in the hand rather than too light, as this often leads to behind the vertical and makes future collection much harder.
- * Work on your own core strength early. Charlotte Dujardin didn't get where she is from pure luck! She goes to the gym 3 to 4 times a week and it shows in her riding.
- * Remember your half halt is 'whoa, go, release'. The release is as important as the whoa and the go. Use upwards half halts for horses who lean.
- * If your horse is leaning on you, push back using that leg. Don't sit to the outside, this doesn't work.
- * Stretch and straighten. Collect and bend for elasticity.
- * To prepare for future flying changes, always ask for the canter from an outside leg aid. You need a good forward canter to walk first.
- * To improve the trot ready for passage, bring the trot back and send it forward again. Don't let the horse drop back too much into a piaffe though.
- * When performing a half pass in rising trot, change your diagonal to the inside.
- * Australian riders' reins are too long! Keep your reins short enough that they are in front of the saddle. Put your hands forward.
- * Ride forward to passage, don't think backwards. Rise trot in passage to loosen your horse's back. Bring passage to the spot to improve hind leg action.
- * Make sure you can ride with a passive seat and don't need to push all the time. Activate your seat only when you need to. This refines the response.
- * If you can't canter short or in half pass, you aren't ready for pirouettes!
- * The canter pirouette has to be two halves over the centre line.
- * To develop your pirouette, try shoulder-in then travers on a 10m circle and keep the neck drawing down. The golden rule for a pirouette is to start small and get bigger. Use shoulder fore to the point then think leg yield before turning the front. Increase impulsion at the end of the pirouette to canter out. Don't forget to freshen the canter afterwards.





- * Use leg yields to improve your half pass and keep the rhythm and flow. Then add travers and turn it into half pass.
 - * If the walk gets too fast and loses its big overtrack, zig zag down the centre line to get the shoulders to do more.
 - * Practice the canter zig zag against the wall to encourage straightness. Improve your zig zag by doing leg yield for 5 steps, then 1 straight then ask for the change on the wall.
-

**DRESSAGE WA PROUDLY PRESENTS THE INAUGURAL
'GRASS ROOTS' DRESSAGE CHAMPIONSHIPS**



**SATURDAY 24 NOVEMBER 2018
STATE EQUESTRIAN CENTRE
CATHEDRAL AVENUE
BRIGADOON
8.30am – 4pm**

A closed, restricted competition offering EA tests from Preparatory to Elementary (PE upon request), with separate placings for:

- ✓ Ponies
- ✓ Adult Riders
- ✓ Junior Participants
- ✓ Senior Participants

Riders must hold a current 2018 EWA membership in one of the following categories:

- ✓ Participant (junior/senior)
- ✓ Adult rider

Horses/ponies must NOT hold a current EWA Dressage competition license.

Championships awarded for the highest overall combined score at each level.

Entries open 1 October 2018 on [Nominate](#).





Thank you to all of our contributors for August. If you have any ideas or anything you'd like to read in the DWA Newsletter, please get in touch with us by going to the link below:

<https://www.dressagewa.org/contact-us.html>

Dressage Western Australia Committee Members

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

Finance/Treasury – Natalie Sakich/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

Para Equestrian – Val Mayger

Young and Junior Rider Rep – Natalie Sakich/Steph Munro

General Committee Member – Linley Crackel

The Dressage Western Australia Newsletter is compiled and edited by Ally Doumany