



DRESSAGE
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Dressage WA Newsletter

July 2018

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Victoria Hamilton and Scandric VH were Preliminary Champions at the Brookleigh Autumn Classic.
(Photo courtesy of PKing Photography.)

Welcome to our July Newsletter! June was a big month for clinics and competitions, so we have some exciting event wrap-ups in this edition.

One of these events was the Four Fantastic Days of Dressage, hosted by the Dressage Development Series and organised by Jackie Lancaster. Maria Schwennesen travelled over from Queensland as the special guest judge and presenter for the event, which saw competition, protocol tests, judging seminars and masterclasses. We are pleased to bring you some of the information that she shared during her visit.

This edition also sees the renewal of "From the Judges Box", a section bringing the expertise of some of our great judges straight to you. Focusing on a different movement each month, we'll aim to spotlight what judges want to see from horses and riders, and some of their suggestions on how to improve and aim for higher marks.

State Championships is inching ever closer, and entries are now open! We have been getting a lot of queries and some feedback from our community, so this issue includes some extra details and updates. It is shaping up to be a fantastic event, with some great sponsors coming on board, and we are proud to announce that Bates Saddles are our Platinum Sponsors.

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Quote of the Month

"All animal training systems begin with rewarding a good basic response. It is one of the standout, successful features of the Parelli system that, regardless of whether you love it or hate it, works well because it obeys that basic principle. It's like teaching a child to spell; you make the task as simple as possible, the answer as easy and obvious as you can and you reward the good try."

Dr. Andrew McLean, as published in *The Horse Magazine*



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New Venue Gets the Thumbs Up for Swan River Dressage

Swan River Dressage (SRDI) has now held two official competitions at its new venue, Camellia Park in West Swan.

The first of the Valley Equine Vet Centre Series was held on 28-29 April, followed by the second on 2-3 June. Both events filled quickly and attracted lots of positive feedback from riders and officials.

Deirdre Stock, a prominent NSW FEI High Performance rider and EA Level 2 Coach, was guest judge for the first competition while Kerrie Swan-Bates (FEI 3*), from Tasmania, judged at the second event.

"The atmosphere was really supportive; it was a super venue for horses and riders to relax and be at their best in, living up very well to the SRDI descriptor 'Dressage with Decorum'," Ms Stock said.

Barb (Vice Chair of SRDI) and Geoff Davies (Treasurer) initially purchased the Camellia Park venue in Coast Road two years ago as an agistment centre. Since then, they have made significant improvements to the property. The 50m x 70 m river sand dressage arena offers excellent footing, with floodlights and a professional PA system covering the whole expanse.



Gina Hendrie

"The atmosphere was really supportive; it was a super venue for horses and riders to relax and be at their best in, living up very well to the SRDI descriptor 'Dressage with Decorum'," – Deirdre Stock

"We held a training day in March to have a trial run in our new competition venue, and riders seemed very happy with the footing and the friendliness and supportiveness of our events," Geoff said. "We are delighted that we have had the same feedback, including many lovely comments on how friendly our events are, from our official Swan River Dressage Inc. events."

Vice Chair Barb Davis said one of SRDI's Youth members Chloe Moon rode her first ever Intermediate II on A'Seduction in Series 1, achieving the highest Big Tour percentage for the weekend. She also rode a second Intermediate II in Series 2, to win the County Saddlery Big Tour prize.

"We are very proud to have young riders of Chloe's calibre as members of our club," Barb said.



Chloe Moon



Hannie Byrne



The Four Year Old Young Horse – A Seminar with Maria Schwennesen

The Dressage Development Series hosted four fantastic days of Dressage from 21-24 June, with special guest judge, Maria Schwennesen. Maria is an FEI 5* Judge and Judge Educator.

During the four day event, riders and spectators were lucky to watch as Maria shared her expertise in free seminars on the requirements for the young horse classes. The four-year old session featured *BML First Class*, owned by Corrie Andrew and ridden by Tracey Strommer. Below is a summary of the main points that Maria discussed.

Conformation:

She explained that the horse displayed good conformation, in particular the straightness of his forelegs and the length of his neck. She stressed the importance of correct conformation in a potential dressage horse, as it not only allows the horses to work correctly, but as they age and move towards higher training, it is paramount for them to be able to hold up to the work. An example she gave was how the hind end must physically be strong enough to weight bear for the Grand Prix movements.

Charisma:

A term Maria used a lot when discussing general impression was "charisma". She explained that judges like to see a horse with presence and charisma, as it shows they are enjoying what they are doing, and they have the flair and desire to perform. This judging section is an opportunity for them to appreciate and reward a horse for these traits, or to not reward them, if that special something is in fact lacking. A horse at four years old must be enjoying its work, as if it shows dullness so early on, it will only worsen.

BML First Class had a good presence, appearing to enjoy his work and gain energy from his surroundings, with every indication that this would continue as he developed.

Standard or Correctness of Training:

When it comes to this section, she stressed that it is not about the rider and the rider is not being judged. It does mean though that the rider is responsible for how the horse goes, and what is considered for judging is what they are doing with the horse and the consequences of their riding.

Feedback from Maria for *BML First Class*:

BML First Class was a good representation of what a four-year old horse should be, in that his mentality and development were at the stage she would want and expect for his age. Where you might see a small inconsistency like jumping into the canter, or a slight pull at the bit, as long as the work in between is consistent, this is acceptable for the age group.

She spoke with Tracey about how there could be some improvement in the consistency of the contact.

Maria's Tip: for a stretch, or at any time, the reins mustn't flap. If trying to train the horse to stretch, instead of giving rein and losing contact, let the reins out slowly, encouraging the horse to stay with and seek the contact each time you give more rein. This would in turn help the horse remain more settled and keep a steadier tempo.

The horse was a wonderful type and example of a four year old with a lot of potential, and Maria confirmed that he was of high enough quality to be judged favourably both interstate and internationally. In conclusion, Maria admitted she would happily take him home with her.





Some Feedback for Maria:

A word from Tracey Strommer:

"Thank you Maria for your encouraging words and guidance at the Dressage WA Development Series weekend. I was lucky enough to ride BML First Class in the 4YO test and also as part of the Young Horse demo on Saturday with you as the judge and guest presenter, respectively. Your extensive experience in judging, educating and examining young dressage horses is so very much appreciated here in WA. I've gained a lot from just one session with you and have come away very excited for our young horses careers."

A word from Taylah Welsh

"A big thank you to Maria for coming over! I learnt so much in the short time we had, it was definitely very beneficial for both my horse Rubin and I!"



Taylah Welsh on Rubin, pictured with Maria



A word from Chelsea De Jonge

"I had a wonderful and informative time at Maria Schwennessen's event. I was lucky enough to be judged by Maria for my FEI Para equestrian test, in which she made some lovely comments for me. I really enjoyed her masterclass on Friday night as I will be bringing my young Dressage horse out next year! This gave me a lot of information. Thank you Maria and a big thank you to the organisers for a lovely event"

(Left) Chelsea De Jonge and Savio H

Horse Profile: BML First Class

Owned by Corrie Andrew, BML First Class was a wonderful example of a four year old in his demonstration with Maria Schwennessen. Corrie tells us a little more about him...

Stable name: Cadet

Age: 4yrs

Height: 17hh

Dam: BB Jodelen

Sire of dam: Jive Magic

Sire: BB Flemington (deceased)

Bred by: Jenny Bromage at Bonnie Brae Stud NSW

Cadet was purchased at Auction of the Stars as a yearling, and then broken in as a two year old by Adam Fairey. He was then spelled until age the age of three.

Cadet was introduced to eventing this year, and is currently showjumping at 90cm to 1m and eventing at 80cm until Gidgegannup ODE where he will step up and do his first EVA 95cm. He has attended a few training dressage days prior to the Young Horse Class on the weekend.

Strengths: His cool calm character makes him very trainable in all disciplines and he is very versatile.

Goals: Our main goal is to find his forte. He is so talented both on the flat and over a fence! We will aim to finish the year ready to upgrade in eventing to EVA105 in 2019. We are also aiming for outings in official novice dressage this year and to be training some elementary movements.





From the Judges Box

The Canter Loop

In this edition we are taking a look at canter loops, with the help of judges Hannie Byrne and Jackie Lancaster.

Hannie Byrne

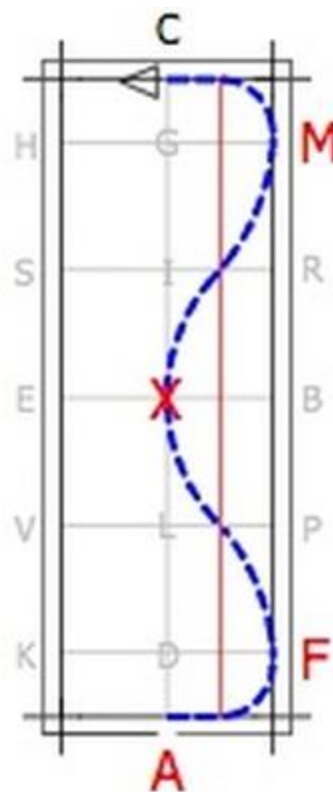
Hannie is an A Level Judge, and Chair of the WA Dressage Judges Taskforce

- * A canter loop should be performed as a smooth line. You should think of it in thirds; the first and last thirds are in true canter, and the middle third of the loop, either side of x, is in counter canter. Counter canter requires obedience, balance and collection. It is a suppling and strengthening movement and prepares the horse for the flying change.
- * The judge will look for suppleness, balance and ease of movement. The counter canter must maintain the same rhythm and energy as true canter and have a clear three beat rhythm.
- * The horse must have slight flexion to the leading leg and must remain supple and submissive to the flexion and accepting the contact. No bobbing the head for balance should occur.
- * The horse must remain upright, not lean in or out, so as to take more weight on the outside hind. The shoulders must also be kept properly in front of the hindquarters.
- * The rider must sit correctly and use outside leg as necessary to prevent the horses hindquarters from drifting out which the horse will try to do to avoid the effort.

Jackie Lancaster

Jackie is a D level judge and the mastermind behind the Dressage Development Series.

- * One of the most important things in a canter loop is to keep the hind legs jumping to display the clear three-beats throughout the movement, with no change from the canter that was shown prior to starting the loop. You might think of medium canter on the spot to create the extra impulsion you will need to make it through the loop!
- * The quarters can be controlled by placing them on the loop line with the thought of containing each hind leg directly under each seat bone and hip of the rider. The shoulders are then lifted up, with the thought of using the riders stomach muscles, manoeuvred and placed in front of the hind legs each stride.





Dates for the Diary

- ❖ 7 & 8 July: Orange Grove Dressage Gala [Karinya Park]
- ❖ 10 & 11 July: Maitland Park Rising Stars Clinic [SEC]
- ❖ 10 July: La Noir Equestrian High Performance Workshop [SEC]
- ❖ 19 July: Para-Equestrian Clinic with Roz Tippet, also for Open Riders [SEC]
- ❖ 22 July: Serpentine Horse & Pony Club Jill Stanton Dressage Day.
- ❖ 22 July: Orange Grove H & PC SJ & Dressage Series 2
- ❖ 28 July: Brookleigh Dressage Club Championship Series [Competitor, Pony, FEI]
- ❖ 3 – 5 August: Henty Winter Dressage Championships, Dardanup Equestrian Centre. [Competitor, Participant, Pony, YH, FEI]
- ❖ 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

For more information see the DWA Website and Nominate

* This movement requires at least double the amount of leg (inside at the girth to stop the horse falling in)... and outside... as you would normally use each stride in the canter, but with double the number of half-halts as well. A good way to think of it is like you are riding a half-halt each stride.

* You will also need flexion and slight bend to the inside (think of the horse as a banana travelling along the loop line). And it goes without saying - a connection from hindquarters to bit.

Practice Tip:

A good practise exercise is to ride shoulder-fore in canter down the long side, then also ask for the quarters just to the inside of the track, keeping the ribs of the horse to the outside on the track (like a banana). If you can hold your line, you have the correct amount of impulsion, uphill balance, bend & and control of the shoulders to ride a good canter loop!

The Noticeboard

Dressage Western Australia is constantly working to keep our sport up to date, safe, fair and supportive for all members. Please read below for updates and news in regards to rules and policies.

State Championships 2018

Freestyles

This year, the WA State Dressage Championships includes freestyles at all levels!

A completed and scored freestyle is compulsory for eligibility for Competitor Championships from Novice – FEI.

For the Novice-Advanced Championships, calculation is based on the placings received in the two Competitor tests ridden (freestyle must be ridden to be eligible but is not included in the scoring).

For the FEI Championships, calculation is based on the placings received in the FEI test ridden and the freestyle ridden.

Freestyle FAQs:

- * *If I am riding Small Tour (Prix St George and Inter I), do I ride two freestyles?*
No, for FEI, the championships are for single levels only. If you are a small tour rider, you need to choose to go for either the Prix St George Championship or Inter I Championship. If you do opt for the Inter I championship, you can certainly still ride the Prix St George test.
- * *If I am riding Preliminary (Horse and Pony), do I need to ride a freestyle?*
No, you do not. There is no Preliminary freestyle test, so the championship will be calculated on the 1.2 and 1.3 only.
- * *If I am riding in Participant classes, do I need to ride a freestyle?*
No, you do not to be eligible for a championship, but you may ride a freestyle if you choose.

See the graphic below for more information:



Championship Title	Tests Awarded Championship Points	Compulsory Freestyle Test
Preliminary	Preliminary 1.2 & Preliminary 1.3	<i>Freestyle not compulsory</i>
Pony Preliminary	Pony Preliminary 1.2 & Pony Preliminary 1.3	<i>Freestyle not compulsory</i>
Novice	Novice 2.2 & Novice 2.3	Novice and/or Elementary
Pony Novice	Pony Novice 2.2 & Pony Novice 2.3	Novice and/or Elementary
Elementary	Elementary 3.2 & Elementary 3.3	Novice and/or Elementary and/or Medium
Pony Elementary	Pony Elementary 3.2 & Pony Elementary 3.3	Novice and/or Elementary and/or Medium
Medium	Medium 4.2 & Medium 4.3	Elementary and/or Medium and/or Advanced
Pony Medium	Pony Medium 4.2 & Pony Medium 4.3	Elementary and/or Medium and/or Advanced
Advanced	Advanced 5.2 & Advanced 5.3	Medium and/or Advanced
Pony Advanced	Pony Advanced 5.2 & Pony Advanced 5.3	Medium and/or Advanced
Prix St George	Prix St George & Advanced Freestyle	Advanced
Intermediate I	Intermediate I & Intermediate I Freestyle	Intermediate I Freestyle
Intermediate B	Intermediate B & Intermediate A/B Freestyle	Intermediate A/B Freestyle
Intermediate II	Intermediate II & Intermediate II Freestyle	Intermediate II Freestyle
Grand Prix	Grand Prix & Grand Prix Freestyle	Grand Prix Freestyle
Para Equestrian	Highest percentage in any Para Equestrian test	Equivalent Para Freestyle/Open Championship Freestyle
Participant Preliminary	Participant Preliminary 1.2 & Participant Preliminary 1.3	<i>Freestyle not compulsory</i>
Participant Novice	Participant Novice 2.2 & Participant Novice 2.3	<i>Freestyle not compulsory</i>

Freestyle Music

Please note that all freestyle music is due at 4pm on Friday 17 August.

Music for freestyle is to be submitted via a drop box link with online entries OR on USB to Equestrian Western Australia: 303 Cathedral Ave, Brigadoon, 6069.

Music submitted after this date will attract a \$100 penalty if accepted. Music will not be accepted once the event has commenced.

Accepted music file formats:

- MP3
- MPEG-4
- AIFF
- AAC
- WAV

It is strongly suggested riders have a backup copy of their music with them at the competition.

Helper Duties

The State Championships Organising Committee have listened to feedback from the riders and adjusted the helper system for the WA State Dressage Championships.

The helper duty will now be \$30 per horse (rather than per test).

Riders are asked to nominate for and complete a helper duty of 1-2 hours per horse to receive their refund/s.

Refunds will be processed the week following the event to the account used for entry.

Those riders who have already entered the event and charged per test will be refunded the difference shortly.

To keep up to date with all of the news and information for the State Championships, make sure you follow the dedicated Facebook page and website.

- ❖ <https://www.facebook.com/WAStateDressageChampionships/>
- ❖ <https://wastatedressagechampionships.weebly.com/>

Entries are now open on Nominate:

- ❖ <https://www.nominate.com.au/EquestDn/Event.aspx?event=12089&eventlist=2>



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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Brookleigh Dressage Club Hits the Ground Running in 2018

Launched in 2018, the new Brookleigh Dressage Club is certainly making its mark on the WA competition scene, with three competitions held already at the beautiful Brookleigh Equestrian Estate.

One of these events was the very successful Brookleigh Autumn Dressage Festival on Saturday 21 and Sunday 22 April, which attracted many riders from across the state. There were over 140 tests ridden over the two days from Preliminary through to Advanced in both Participant and Competitor classes.

There were some beautiful partnerships to watch, including several new combinations coming out for the start of the year. The biggest class of the weekend was the Competitive Elementary 3.1, won by Tyla Schou on *Dennis Deniro* with an impressive score of 70.909%.

Our Competitive class champions were:

- ❖ Advanced: Bec Sellick & *Fiderhall* 70.231%
- ❖ Medium: Sue Morgan & *Deckelchen* 66.902%
- ❖ Elementary: Tyla Schou & *Dennis Deniro* 70.072%
- ❖ Novice: Eliza Hebiton & *Revelwood Olivia* 71.014%
- ❖ Preliminary: Victoria Hamilton & *Scandric VH* 72.356% (pictured front page)

Participant class champions went to:

- ❖ Novice: Jordyn Colleran & *Balmont Boy* 66.208%
- ❖ Preliminary: Hannah McGillivray & *Foxleigh Bretonneux* 67.102%

Winner of the Young Rider high-point was Eliza Hebiton & *Revelwood Olivia* with 72.315%.

The Autumn Festival was followed by the one-day Brookleigh in the Valley competition on 27 May, an event which saw the inclusion of FEI classes.

Six competitors rode the Prix St Georges, which was won by Alinta Veenlivet and *Desperanza* with 65.696%. The Inter 1 was taken out by Bell Robson & *Gallico* with 65.809%. The Inter 1 pony class was won by Madison Tristram & *Pembroke Park Forever Wicked*.

Congratulations to all riders and a big 'thank you' to all the judges for their valuable feedback and to Janet Reid, our Official Steward, for always keeping everybody in line!

Brookleigh has another five competitions planned in 2018, including a Championship Series to be held in July, September and November which will include a VIP lunch.

For more information about the club please visit:

<http://www.brookleighridingclub.com.au/brookleigh-dressage-club/>

Or like us on Facebook at

<https://www.facebook.com/Brookleigh-Dressage-Club-292154374526765/>

[Pictured right, from top: Eliza Hebiton and *Revelwood Olivia*, Tyla Schou and *Dennis Deniro*, Sue Morgan and *Deckelchen*, Hannah McGillivray and *Foxleigh Bretonneux*. Photo courtesy of **PKing Photography**]





Event Proudly Sponsored by:-

La Noir Saddleworld
 Brookleigh Health & Spa
 Pimp my Pony
 The Style Stable
 PKing Photography
 Eric Lloyd Photography

(Left) Jordyn Colleran and Balmont Boy
 (Right) Bec Sellick and Fiderhall



Thank you to all of our contributors for June. 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
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Pony Representative – Leanne Pitcher
Participant Representative – Tanya Pasznicki

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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