



July/August 2019

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Dressage WA Newsletter

Over halfway through the year and into the peak dressage season for Western Australia! Welcome to the latest edition of the DWA Newsletter where we learn a little more from one of our distinguished judges and competitors – Hannie Byrne – as part of the Rider Profile.

We're also lucky to gain an insight into the FEI Judges Seminar held in Hartbury, UK, where a group of our WA judges attended to further their judging education.

We have three Championship events in the calendar in the next month or so including the prestigious RubberGem WA State Dressage Championships – so watch this space and good luck to all those competing.



WA State Dressage Championships 2019

31 AUGUST - 1 SEPTEMBER 2019 | STATE EQUESTRIAN CENTRE

170

Riders

200

Horses

476

Tests



Dates for the Diary

August

- ❖ **17 August: Geraldton Combined Equestrian Club Dressage Championships**

- ❖ 22-24 August: DWA Developmental Series – Educational Ft. FEI 5* Judge Maria Schwennesen

- ❖ **31 August – 1 September: 2019 RubberGem WA State Dressage Championships**

September

- ❖ 21 September: BHPC Spring PC Dressage
- ❖ 22 September: BHPC Spring Dressage SWD HOTY
- ❖ **28 September: HB Horsewear Grass Roots Dressage Championships**

*Note: not all upcoming events are listed. Please regularly check the EA Events page and other local sources for up to date info.

Dressage Rider / Volunteers

The WA Dressage Community might be surprised to learn how many of their fellow competitors are out there not only placing at events but also doing the hard work to run the events!

A big thankyou to those that contribute and also those that quietly help out at the events they attend.

We've compiled a brief list of those that we would like to thank, please do send through the names of those volunteers you're aware of and would like to recognize to the [DWA contact page](#):

Liz Watkins
Suzanne Simons
Melanie Nixon

Bella Robson
Steph Spencer
Julie Dammers

Steph Munro
Hannie Byrne

Stewards Corner

by Janet Reid

Stirrup leathers worn under saddle flaps – “not permitted”

- Stirrups and leathers need to be worn on the outside of the saddle flaps at all times at an Event.
- Failure to wear them correctly will result in elimination from the Judge of that competition/class.
- Eliminated riders are able to compete later in the day in other competitions/classes, if the stirrups and leathers are worn correctly.



Winning Tongue Plate Bits – “not permitted”

- Winning Tongue Plate bits - in all mouthpiece and ring types - are “not permitted” to be worn at EA or FEI Dressage Events.
- The wearing of these bits will likely only be discovered at a bit check after the dressage test. If this happens, the Judge is advised and the competitor is eliminated from that competition/class.
- Eliminated riders are able to compete later in the day in other dressage competition/classes, if they change their bit to a legal one.



- Note that there are some “knock-off” Winning Tongue Plate bits available that do not have the WTP logo embossed on the lozenge – these are also “not permitted” in EA or FEI Dressage.



Rider (and Judge!) Profile

Meet Hannie Byrne

1) Tell us about your horses?

I have three horses in work at the moment,

Elouera Ramjet D aka Roger. I bred Roger who is by Jet Set D, he stood as a stallion for several years. He has had success with his progeny including Dianne Humm's Waterford Tiffany up to Inter 1 in Victoria winning many championships along the way, Pam Page's Everton Jet Blauw is currently competing at the same level as Roger, Inter 2/ Grand Prix with Liz Tollarzo – father and son - that's a lot of fun. Elouera Rhapsody has competed to Advanced with Kelly Brown, Sara Laurie and Marigold Finito have done well up to Elementary.



He is the second horse I have bred, broken and trained to Grand Prix. The first was Elouera Quixote (Rudy) my very lovely chestnut stallion. Roger was always second string although arguably the better dressage horse, I struggled to campaign 2 horses and so Roger was a bit behind in his competition education. When Elouera Quixote (Rudy) passed away suddenly last year Roger had to quickly step up...and he did. It was a big step for Roger as he isn't the bravest of horses and was already 18, he knew a few tricks but had to quickly add 1 tempis and piaffe

to his repertoire as I decided to enter him in the States in the Inter A and B a month later. Bless his little heart he was awesome and I think the first set of 7 x one's we actually pulled off were in the test at the States. He has now done a couple of Grand Prix tests, we need to get stronger, more balanced and confident and I think he will produce some solid tests in the future.



Foxleigh Seraph (Maya), belongs to Gabby Clements of Foxleigh Stud. Maya is by Blue Horse Soprano out of Rudy's mother, Elouera Fruition. She is such a



sweet horse, sometimes a little too laid back, she has been doing well at Novice level and nearly ready to start Elementary tests soon.

Kalimna Love Story, I bought sight unseen from Queensland. She is almost four must be 16.3hh already and still looks like a giant foal...all legs. We are just starting her under saddle but will take her slowly as she still has a lot of developing to do.

We also have four others, Elouera Pele, by Purioso, ridden by my daughter Nicola, Elouera Que Syrah by Elouera Quixote out of a mare by Elouera Ramjet D, Elliot the super Shetland and Bertie De Lux (GRP) for the grandchildren.

2. What has been the key to training your horse?

Haha – the secret is- there is no secret. I have given up looking for a “key”.

There is a list of requirements though.

The training scale. Rhythm, Suppleness, Contact then Impulsion, Straightness, Collection. Keep doing that.

If it is not working - change something – but stick within the training scale.

There is no point doing anything until you have the horse soft and swinging over the back.

Get a good coach who follows the training scale. You need regular eyes on the ground not just a six monthly lesson from a visiting coach. It's really easy to be tricked by your own perceptions.

Read widely, talk to people who know stuff, collect knowledge – Knowledge is Power.

Get yourself fit, strong, supple, and your horse too.

Finally, as my coach Harry Boldt has said when I get disheartened, which is easy to do in dressage – “Don't give up!!!!”. That may be the key.

3. What are your riding goals?

To develop my riding skills so I can allow Ramjet D become a confident, competent Grand Prix horse. To keep riding long enough to bring on another youngster, maybe two, to the higher levels.

4. How did you start out riding dressage?

I was a horse mad kid in a non-horsey family. I was the kid hanging on the fence waiting to be offered a chance to lead the others around on the horses. I had to perfect my persistence/nagging skills to get lessons and then to convince my parents to allow me to buy a horse. I had to work after school to pay for the agistment and feed. I was the luckiest kid I knew. I used to do a lot of jumping. I studied, worked, travelled, got married, bred Connemara ponies. When my kids were little my now close friend, Sandra Goodman moved in down the road fresh from the UK, she was a BHSI, I started having some lessons, we joined Dressage Club (now DAWA) and before too long I was hooked on dressage, having regular lessons with Nadine Merewether and bringing on a string of thoroughbreds off the track. Nadine would say “if you are serious about dressage you will need another horse”. So I bought a warmblood mare from the East,



bred a few warmbloods, broke them in trained some, sold some and eventually kept three lovely colts. Elouera Pele, Quixote, Ramjet D.

5. How and when did you begin as a judge?

I was starting to do some medium tests on a TB horse, Skorpio that I got from Joanne Fowler. It was the early nineties, Wanda Nelson, who was an FEI judge told me I had better go to some judges seminars to learn a bit more if I wanted to ride at that level and before I knew it I was sitting at C.

6. Can you give one tip from a judge's perspective to all riders in the arena?

Competition riders need to know what the judge is looking for and what they will reward with the marks. Go to judges seminars. They are the cheapest form of dressage education you can get. Find out what the judges want to see and do that.

Remember the training scale, show that you understand it. You won't get a good mark for a shoulder in that stays perfectly on three tracks if the rhythm, suppleness and contact are not up to scratch. Having said that, if you have lovely rhythm, suppleness and contact and your horse's shoulders stay on the track you will still not get a good mark. But if your horse is going correctly the judge will be trying hard to give you marks. Horses that are going well are a pleasure to judge.





Make sure you get your tickets for the Carl Hester Masterclass this October!

*Dressage Western Australia invites you to an
intimate “Through the Levels” masterclass
with the ultimate Master of Dressage
Carl Hester MBE*



3.00pm Gates open
4.30pm Masterclass starts
6.45-7.45pm Dinner break
9.15pm Autograph signing
10.00pm close



*For one night only...
Don't miss this unique opportunity*

Monday 14 October 2019

State Equestrian Centre, 303 Cathedral Avenue

Brigadoon WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Tickets on sale from TryBooking in April 2019

Balcony VIP event, including 4 course dinner: \$255 pp

General admission: EWA members \$120, non-EWA members \$135



IDOC FEI Judges Seminar Hartpury UK July 5th-7th 2019

By Gill Botten

Thirty judges of various levels from around the world came together to attend the IDOC FEI Judges Seminar at the Hartpury Festival of Dressage, Gloucestershire in the UK. The conveners were Isobel Wessels (UK) and Susie Hoevenaars (Australia), Lisa Baker, Kim Thomas, Gill Botten, Elaine Greene and Pollyann Huntington attended from WA so the State was well represented.

After registration on the first day it was straight into a morning of theory. The new FEI handbook and the Code of Points was discussed and then the conveners gave advice on judging generally which included the discussion of comments and how to "deliver the news to the rider in a positive way." It was great to hear the advice of two such experienced judges as Isobel and Susie and be able to have stimulating discussion throughout the morning.

"Always an intimidating but worthwhile experience, it was good to get feedback whilst reviewing so many elegant and well-trained combinations."

The afternoon found us all in a tent situated at "A" at the end of the arena for the Grand Prix. The weather was glorious although some of the riders found it quite hot! The competition had been moved from 1pm to 3pm due to the heat. All judges had headphones and initially Susie and Isobel gave commentary. Then it was over to us and we all had to judge whilst our colleagues and the two conveners listened on the headphones.

Always an intimidating but worthwhile experience, it was good to get feedback whilst reviewing so many elegant and well-trained combinations. Everyone enjoyed a great dinner at Hartpury University that night.

Saturday morning was spent back in the classroom reviewing the videos of the day before and it was a valuable experience to be able to again look at riders such as Carl Hester, Charlotte DuJardin and Richard Davidson to name but a few. Again we had to judge, this time in teams. Jane Ventura gave a presentation on Rules which was most informative.

Back in the tent on Saturday afternoon, judging the Inter 1. The evening continued with observing the PSG Young Horse class in the Indoor arena. Finally, we could all relax and watch the great treat of the GP freestyle with Charlotte DuJardin doing a spectacular job with Mount St John Freestyle to win with 87.6%.

After the late night it was great to have a leisurely start on Sunday morning (after some retail therapy for all of course!) First was the Grand Prix Special which is a long and very difficult test but spectacular to watch when carried out by riders of this calibre. We finished the three days with the Inter 1 Freestyle, having to put forward our marks for Artistic Impression and Degree of Difficulty.

On Monday most of the judges opted to go on a tour of Carl Hester's establishment which was such a memorable experience. Charlotte rode a five year old and the great Valegro. Carl talked of their philosophy of buying and training horses. I counted at least seven dogs and as we were departing they were all disappearing into the hills for a hack with Charlotte and a stable girl! The whole



"I think everyone came away feeling inspired and very upbeat about the progress of dressage as a sport worldwide."

atmosphere was one of happy horses and professionalism. Whatever the recipe, it is certainly working as watching them ride one wonders just how they do it in such a quiet and effective way.

I think everyone came away feeling inspired and very upbeat about the progress of dressage as a sport worldwide. Many of the participants meet at these seminars every two years so there are always friendships renewed and new ones made as well of the wealth of knowledge to be absorbed.

Winners and Grinners – WA Pony Dressage Showcase

Congratulations to all competitors at the recent Pony Dressage Showcase, here are a few happy snaps of our winners and grinners!



Medium Champion –
Kerry Dyjak



Participant Novice
Champion – Sally-Leigh
Woods



Elementary Champion –
Lauren Rowe



Competitive Novice
Champion – Kelly Rowe



Competitive Preliminary
Champion – Paige King



Participant Preparatory
Champion – Eliza
Moeun



Advanced Champion –
Dinah Fleming



Sportsmanship Award –
Mia Fellows



Sun Shines on Pony Dressage Showcase

Pony dressage continues to buck the trend by attracting a growing number of competitors across all age brackets. This was evidenced by Dressage WA's recent Pony Dressage Showcase, run at the State Equestrian Centre on the Monday of the sunny June long weekend.

We had 97 tests entered by 41 riders with 44 ponies - a significant increase of almost 25 per cent from the inaugural competition in 2018. This resulted in a full day of tests in both CQuest arenas, with some great feedback from the judges. Running the event on the back of DWA's new Regional Riders' Rumble on Sunday had a positive impact on entries, with some of our country counterparts choosing to stay for the long weekend and enjoy the additional opportunity to compete.

Donna Kristiansen, from Geraldton, is one of those riders. She only started competing in pony dressage this year with her five-year-old Friesian x Welsh Cob Centauri CN. Holding the two competitions back to back gave her more incentive to make the trip to Perth and upgrade her EWA membership from Participant to Competitor. "It was a great idea to schedule the inaugural Regional Riders' Rumble on the long weekend with the Pony Dressage Showcase," Donna said. "This assisted my decision to attend both events, as we travel four-and-a-half hours to the metro area. I was very impressed with the large numbers who supported the Pony Showcase, particularly because the pony classes in the country are usually quite small in comparison. Competing with such a large group of riders was a fantastic opportunity. I will continue to support pony dressage events and am hoping to see many of these faces at the WA State Dressage Championships."

The Pony Dressage Showcase was launched in 2018 by a small group of dedicated volunteers and is now a firm favourite on the DWA event calendar.

Our sincere gratitude to our generous 2019 sponsors JGC Accounting & Financial Services, Horseland Midland, Europa Saddlery, Welsh Pony and Cob Society, Bates Saddles, Henley Brook Produce, Equidae, Hobby Horse Gear and Fibregenix. Many thanks also to Rebecca De Vries Photography for agreeing to be our event photographer at the last minute.

2019's Championship winners from the Pony Dressage Showcase are listed below. Full results are available on the Dressage WA website.

	Rider	Pony
PARTICIPANT		
PREPARATORY CHAMPION	Eliza Mouen	KOSIKAN RAEDWYN EDITION
PRELIMINARY CHAMPION	Louise Falconer	GEM PARK CENTRE PIECE
NOVICE CHAMPION	Sally-leigh Woods	TIERNEY PARK MISS MOLLY
COMPETITOR		
PRELIMINARY CHAMPION	Paige King	KINGS TOWN I'M A PRINCE
NOVICE CHAMPION	Kelly Rowe	KARMA PARK FAIR GALAHAD
ELEMENTARY CHAMPION	Lauren Rowe	CHARISMA ROYAL EMBLEM
MEDIUM CHAMPION	Kerry Dyjak	PRIMROSE PARK RED FOX
ADVANCED CHAMPION	Dinah Fleming	KNIGHTWOOD CRUSADER



Thank you to all of our contributors for this edition of the DWA Newsletter. 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 – Natalie Sakich

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/committee
Minutes, Agendas, incoming and outgoing correspondence.

Business/Strategic Planning - Committee

Events – Working Parties

Club Liaison – Leanne Pitcher

Pony Representative – Leanne Pitcher

Participant Representative – Melissa Sullivan

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 – Jamie Bawden.
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

This Dressage Western Australia Newsletter was compiled by Jamie Bawden and Tracey Strommer

