



## **Annual Report: Jumping Chair**

**Presented by: Mandy Illston**

2018-19 has been a year of continued success for Jumping and Show Hunter. We have seen great performances on the world stage, continued commitment from our volunteers and officials, and we have lots of reasons to celebrate.

But let's deal with the elephant in the room first, it has also been a year of dealing with one badly behaved person after another. Extraordinary in a sport where anyone can judge the winner; it is the fastest person who leaves all the rails up. I think we need to remind ourselves that this is a SPORT and although a very small minority of competitors make a living out of it, the vast majority of us do it because we love horses; it is a great way of getting outside in the fresh air and having some good competitive fun. Let us not lose sight of that.

On a much more positive note, we have had a great season in the competition arena with some really competitive classes. The series classes all create their own competition, and I also believe that we are now really reaping the rewards of the Junior Rider Series. Encouraging children to ride horses early has now led to some of our winning Juniors progressing through to senior classes and many of them featuring in the winner's circle of World Cup Qualifiers and Horse of The Year title classes. This is a great outcome for our sport.

Our internationally based riders continued to pick up some great results, both in Europe and America. There is a larger pool of internationally based riders creating opportunities for themselves to compete at higher level shows, and success breeds success. We all know it is really tough out there and we thank you for your unwavering determination to better both yourselves and our sport on the world stage. Unfortunately, the World Games were not quite the outcome we had hoped for, as we had one of the strongest teams we have fielded. Certainly, with an ounce of luck and one less rail each, Daniel Meech and Sam McIntosh's overall results would have been much more competitive. The Aussies certainly proved we can be competitive from this end of the world. They had an outstanding time, and all without their pin-up girl Edwina Tops-Alexander.

A big thank you to the team at Waikato led by Kerry Willetts and Jackie Jermyn who did a great job of organising a very successful fundraising evening for the WEG team.

We had quite a number of NZ based riders compete as individuals, in both official and unofficial capacity overseas, which if nothing else is always great experience for them and they get to meet their peers from around the world. Briar Burnett-Grant was our representative at the Youth Olympic Games in Buenos Aires, Leeshelle Small went to Taipei to the Asian Equestrian Games, and the team of Ike Baker, Sarah West and Sophie Townsend won a bronze medal at the Princess Cup - Asian Youth Games in Thailand. Most recently Anna Nalder represented us in Tashkent (Uzbekistan) for the final of the FEI Children's Classic. Later this year Mikayla Herbert will head to the 2019 FEI Jumping World Challenge Final in Quito. Thanks to all who supported these riders and those who went as Chef d'Equipe's Jackie Jermyn, Penny Stephenson and Aria Small.

Here at home we put up a very strong Young Rider team against the Aussies in Gisborne for a three-day test match which we won convincingly.



On a regular basis, there are some passionate individuals who go above and beyond to produce an exceptional show to showcase our sport. On that note it is very exciting to have Mitch and Kate Plaw develop their own property into a venue that has a truly international quality and style to it. We look forward to their continued support and enthusiasm for our sport.

### Thank you

As always when you are in a role like this there is a big team behind you doing a whole load of work, and so I would like to take the opportunity to thank a number of people.

The winter period saw a significant lack of Jumping staff for a variety of reasons. ESNZ Chief Executive Dana Kirkpatrick went above and beyond the call of duty to assist us during this time. In addition, Tess Williams, Fiona Bentley, Jenny Booth and Penny Tapley were all fantastic, stepping in and dealing with the enormous amount of administrative work that occurs in our 'off season'.

We were very excited to employ Marilyn Thompson and Rebecca Griffith as our Jumping Sports Manager and Jumping Administrator, respectively. Both Marilyn and Rebecca had a baptism of fire starting as the season was already underway and with a multitude of unknown tasks ahead of them. They have both done very well given the circumstances and I am sure the next Jumping year will be a comparative walk in the park. I am excited to hear their ideas of how they can improve and streamline tasks that will only benefit Jumping overall.

Thank you specifically to Marilyn, Rebecca, and Dana, and to the rest of the ESNZ staff who work away in the background for us.

Richard Sunderland as ESNZ President and immediate past Chair of Jumping has always been available on the end of the phone and always has sage words of advice. Richard is very good at taking the emotion out of issues and gets to the point. His advice at times has been invaluable.

I would like to again thank all of those on area committees and organizing committees who spend endless hours planning and running events for our members to compete in. Our officials and volunteers who give up their time week after week to ensure the events are well run, safe and fair for everyone, and all the support crews who get riders and horses safely around the country throughout the season. Without commitment from all of you our sport would be much less satisfying and we take our hats off to you.

I would like to remind riders and supporters to also take the time to thank volunteers, officials and organizing committees as sometimes in the heat of the moment it can be difficult to remember that without them, we would not have events to compete at.

We are regularly told that boards are meant to act in a governance role and should not step across in to management. The reality is with any discipline board they become very much a working board. All of our board members are very active in their roles in other areas and without exception they all work very hard and passionately for our sport. Thank you to you all for all of your efforts over the past year. We do not always agree at times, but this is healthy, and we can all have a laugh together at the end of the day. This is important.



## Jumping Chair Report

And last but not least a big thank you to our Series Sponsors, you are all very important to us, and we thank you for your ongoing support of our sport. Every single jumping member benefits from the sponsorship in some way and it is a very important part of the funding mix for Jumping. We need to support our sponsors and recognize their contribution.

Best of luck to you all for a successful and fun 2019/20 season and remember that whilst **it is nice to be important it is more important to be nice.**