

Annual Report: High Performance & Performance

Presented by: Mandy Illston

High Performance

Effectively our show jumping year started with the WEG held in Tryon, USA. We sent a full team of riders, Bruce Goodin, Daniel Meech, Sam McIntosh and Sharn Wordley. All had been competing well on the international stage prior to WEG and it was seen as one of our strongest teams. Unfortunately as happens in our game, things did not go as well as anticipated. Daniel and Sam were the standout performers and to be fair to them an ounce of luck and one less rail each would have elevated them much further up the overall standings.

The Australians proved that great results can be achieved even when you reside in the Southern Hemisphere, achieving a top 6 finish and automatic qualification in to the Olympics.

Helena Stormanns was our official Chef d'équipe and whilst she leads a very busy life outside of NZ Jumping duties when she is with the NZ Team her advice, leadership and contacts are invaluable to us. The riders have huge respect for her. Helena continues to support the riders as and when her time permits.

A big thank you to Warrick Allan for all of his work in the background getting entries in to events and all of the other logistics associated with moving horses and riders internationally.

Our internationally based riders continue to pick up great results and doors are slowly opening for them at higher level events. Success breeds success and hopefully increases the chances of individuals and NZ teams to gain entry into shows that have continued to be out of our reach. I did start trying to list some but there actually have been so many success stories this year that I seriously run the risk of forgetting some, or running out of room in my report!

There is no doubt that our HP Squad riders have the focus to perform their best to achieve results that inspire those back in NZ. It is an ongoing challenge for the sport on how we best support our riders balancing against the needs of the sport in NZ. There is no doubt though that on the back of the team's 2018 Abu Dhabi win that international success helps lift the sport in NZ.

Oliver Edgecombe has continued to be a great support to the HP Squad riders in his role as HP Selector. Oliver spends a lot of time keeping in touch with the riders, following their performances and assisting in planning.

The focus going forward is on having NZ Jumpers represented at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. The first hurdle is for us to achieve a position at the Olympics which we will compete for at the FEI Group 8 Olympic Qualifier in Valkenswaard, Germany in August.

NZ based riders competing internationally

At a lower level and on borrowed horses there have been a number of opportunities for our local young riders. If nothing else their attendance at these international events gives them an opportunity to meet their international peers and can open doors for them in the future. It also gives them a taste of competing under FEI imposed conditions.



On that note we have had Briar Burnett-Grant as our representative to the Youth Olympic Games in Buenos Aires, Leeshelle Small went to Taipei to the Asian Equestrian Games, and the team of Ike Baker, Sophie Townsend and Sarah West were bronze medalists at the Princess Cup- Asian Youth Games in Thailand.

Most recently Anna Nalder represented us in Tashkent, Uzbekistan for the final of the FEI Childrens' Challenge. Later in the year, Mikayla Herbert who placed second in our World Jumping Challenge will head to the world final in Quito. Emma Gaze, our winner is unable to attend and the FEI have invited Mikayla to take up this spot.

Thank you to all of those who supported these riders, including those who attended in official Chef d'equipe roles with the riders; Penny Stephenson, Jackie Jermyn, Aria Small and Hannah Burnett-Grant.

NZ Competition

The annual Young Rider Trans-Tasman test match was held in Gisborne again on borrowed horses. A very strong NZ team of Briar Burnett-Grant, Emily Hayward, Steffi Whittaker and Oliver Croucher took out the honours, with John Cottle as Chef d'Equipe.

Selectors

A big thank you to our selectors: Chair of National Selectors Jackie Jermyn, International and National level selector Oliver Edgecombe, and National selectors Chris Harris, John Cottle and Philippa Howells. Thank you to you all for the countless hours behind the scenes putting together squads and teams throughout the season. A very rewarding outcome for you to see so many squad riders on the podium at Horse of the Year as our pinnacle event.

Committee

The committee has been a bit of an evolving beast this year. A big thank you to Jan Hunt for the many hours she has put in as chair of Performance. Jan resigned from the ESNZ jumping board during the season due to an increasing workload in her life outside of Jumping. As a result I took over as the acting Chair for the remainder of the season.

Also a big thank you specifically to Penny Tapley; especially for her help with running both Island camps, and to Jackie Jermyn for her input in to the North Island training camp.

Recently performance met in Wellington to throw around some ideas and get to a conclusion. Penny Castle was invited to this meeting to provide some insights in to improving horse and rider combinations. Penny was very inspiring and certainly gave us some great ideas and tools to work with to improve our elite riders. Also attending was Simon Bennett, HP Director, who is focused on Olympics 2020.

We look forward to some exciting times ahead, as we aim to develop riders and horses to compete on the world stage.

Mandy Illston - Interim Chair