

The Distance

December 2017



The theme for most Decembers has been hot, hot, hot!

Editorial

One of the great joys for me in riding endurance is seeing amazing places. I pride myself on having travelled and I've seen a lot of NZ, but endurance this season has taken me places I've never been before. Most recent of these was last weekend's AWEC ride, north of Auckland on the spectacular Kaipara Harbour. The directions on GPS took us a more 'scenic route' than I will go next time, but it was truly beautiful. Heading in to Kohuratahi club's new base was an adventure all of its own as well, and beautiful in an entirely different way. I see photos from South Island clubs and experience envy that others have been able to ride somewhere I couldn't get to – maybe I need to start putting effort into inter-Island rider exchanges so that I can see more of the South Island as well ...



So Christmas and New Year's are done and dusted. Time for a little more finessing on the training plan, a little more organisation before Island Champs ... I always find that this first half of the season just disappears. The planning for the following season has already started. People have different ways of working out their seasons. Some just go to whatever rides on the calendar they can get to (when the weather permits them to actually do any training) and others plan out their rides and distances towards set goals. Personally, I'm a planner. I like to have targets in front of me, even if I have to change the game plan half a dozen times during the season for one reason or another. The targets I set for myself vary but it always gives me a sense of achievement to reach them – and something to aim for the following season if I don't. And I love hearing about other people reaching their personal goals as well. Send them in to me and maybe we can put together a list of what people aim for. Have a good month everyone.

Daryl Owen

ESNZ Endurance Board 2017

The past month saw the SGM in Wellington to approve the rule revisions. Unfortunately this meeting didn't quite reach the required quorum so it was deferred for two weeks in accordance with the bylaws, at which point the rule revisions were approved. What this means is that we are riding under a current rule book instead of having to approve any changes retrospectively at the end of the season. The Board took the opportunity to unveil the updated strategic plan at the same time. This is essentially a plan of what needs to be worked towards. Now we all need to work on putting that plan into practice. The full plan is on the ESNZ website. Check it out.

<http://www.nzequestrian.org.nz/media/14915/strategic-plan-final-endurance-final-261117.pdf>

Various Board members are now very busy with the three Championship events and the next Board meeting will be February 22. Please let us know if there are any issues you want raised.

Upcoming rides

www.nzequestrian.org.nz/endurance/competition/ride-calendars

North Island 2017-2018

In January
Wairarapa at Daisybank
NORTH ISLAND CHAMPS

And in February
Waitomo at Pukeatua
Waikato at Hikumutu, Taumaranui
Wairarapa

South Island 2017-2018

In January
Marlborough
MacKenzie
Canterbury

And in February
Marlborough
SOUTH ISLAND CHAMPS at Cannington

Officials Panel

Ron Guest has been re-appointed, for 2018, by the FEI, as a Course Director for Endurance for Judges, TDs and Stewards (at all levels). Congratulations Ron.

Latest information is that there should be FEI Officials courses in being run in 2019, under Ron's guidance.

With a revised set of rules now is probably a good time to be looking at running courses for national officials as well, both to train new officials and to refresh existing ones. Weekends get a bit tight during our season calendar but if your club would like to plan ahead towards running a course towards the end of season get in contact with either Jo Lankow (or a Board member/Tech committee/Officials panel member) to get the ball rolling.

Island Champs

If you haven't already done it make sure you get your entries in for Island Champs. FEI renewals are all due on 1 January.

Rides around the country

Kohuratahi club at Aotuhia Station, Whangamomona

This was the first event in the Mitavite FEI series for this season and it completely lived up to expectations. This year Kohuratahi club had a new venue. The ride base was just past the Bridge to Somewhere and the country was everything it promised to be, with a few big climbs and wonderful views from the top and lots of good going as well.

Saturday's CEI 1*80km saw Georgia Smith and Glenmore Vixen victorious once again in 6:28:15. Sean Trafford and Rivergum Dark Knight continued a good season to place second with Pip Mutch and Mauku Bella in third and Deirdre Bartlett on Craig Royston Xmas Star in fourth. A misty start at 5am developed into a hot hot day. Two junior riders headed out fifteen minutes after the seniors, with Jayden Loveridge and Makahiwi Phoenix finishing strongly in a time of 9:16:44

All five entries in the 40km distance were novice, with a 100% completion rate.

Sunday promised to be another very hot day without the benefit of the early mist. Robert Reid was the sole 40km entry and came through with flying colours to take first place. It was great to see a strong contingent of locals turn out to ride the 20km distance, with smiling faces all round.

Another strong contingent of riders headed out for the CEN 80km event. Deirdre Bartlett and Craig Royston Zaria put in a very solid performance to claim the win in 7:15:42. Daryl Owen and Miro Bay Plenty took second place half an hour later. Andrea, Georgia and Murray Smith took third, fourth and fifth places with Glenmore Tango, Glenmore Style Ish and TS Cervantes. Jayden Loveridge followed up on Saturday's result with another 80km Junior win, this time on Mizraim Florence.

Prizegiving on Saturday night was a very social affair – great food, great company and a wonderful location. Thanks to the landowners for their hospitality and to Kohuratahi club for a great start to the FEI season.

Thanks to Mitavite and also to Toft Endurance for their backing of this FEI series.





Ruahine at Piriaka

After a break last year for the venue this year saw a welcome return to Piriaka. The tracks were better than ever as Stu Wakeling had been out mowing strips and bulldozing rough bits. For those that had ridden at the Kohuratahi ride, the climbs at Piriaka suddenly seemed like hillocks. Another fine weekend saw the temperatures climbing. Saturday afternoon saw 19 entries in the 40km event, the majority being novices. In the Open Senior division it was Don Sagar and Wai Totara Ramirez who claimed the lead from the beginning and took first place. Second, third and fourth places were taken by Daryl Owen, Ruth Dawber and Mike Bragg on Miro Bay Plenty, Miro Dusty Trails and Miro Blaze of Glory. Jayden Loveridge and Mizraim Florence took the junior division in great style.

Saturday also saw some 10km riders, including Jordyn Muir-Brown completing her first endurance ride. In the 5km lead rein class Ramiro Trafford seems to have 'got the endurance bug', and very much enjoyed his ride.

Sunday promised to be just as hot as Saturday had been, so the start time was brought forward to 5am in the 80km and 60km events. Ross Hill and Rewa gave a masterclass in ride management, but in the end it was Don Sagar across the line first on Wai Totara Moon Star, completing a very successful weekend. Ross Hill finished in second place on Rewa, with Jenny Champion on Barack Obama taking third place and Ruth Dawber on Miro Bonique in fourth. North Island Champs promises to be interesting, with a number of horses and riders well placed at this point in the season. In the Junior division Hanna Whitehead rode a very good ride on Dundevale Nazecca to take the win.

Sue Drinnan and Charm II were the winners in the 40km event. Debbie Davies and Arahi Liquid Silver cruised in for second place along with Joanne Loveridge on Silands Pilot in third place. Shane

Dougan cruised on in for fourth place on Tararua Sharman. In the junior 40km it was Tayla Morris on Tararua El Dente who passed safely through the final vetting to take first place.

As mentioned earlier in this edition endurance is not always about placings. Often its about achieving personal goals. One such achievement at this ride was Pippa Roberts gaining Open Rider status. Well done Pippa – onwards and upwards from here.

Marlborough at Seaview



The Marlborough Seaview (Seddon) track has become a favourite for many and proved once again to be a popular ride earlier in December.

The track travels over the vineyards of two prominent New Zealand wineries – Pernod Ricard (Triplebank) and Yealands, with the owners and managers very generously opening their properties for the club to use each year. The views are quite spectacular, with the North Island being easily seen on a clear day. Fortunately there is usually also a nice sea breeze, which was certainly welcomed by all over both days this year. The Yealands vineyards are quite distinctive as most of the landscape is gently rolling hills, although there are one or two good climbs also.

The Saturday endurance rides saw nine entries for the 80km events, with all completing the three loop track in very hot conditions, with summer announcing itself only the day before. Local Marlborough rider Linda Harmon, on-board MF Shaheen, swept the field aside in the Open Senior class, finishing in just under six hours and some 47 minutes clear of second placed Tessa Wells. Nelson's Irene Minchin was third.

Libby Thomson, from Wakefield, and Silands Lutece qualified in their 80km Novice class, their second this season, bringing the pair up to Open status now.

Sunday's CTR events had a total of 39 all up, with most having made the trip over the Weld Pass. Over half competed in the 16km Novice rides, which had a separate loop, travelling over mostly Yealands' vineyards, so they too, could take in the stunning surrounds.

Team West Coast had a successful weekend with Paula Kerr, Shardan Shelby, notching the lowest score for the day, an impressive 88 faults.

Marlborough club committee member, Caroline Houghton, and the young Dunrobin Ricochet were closest to the time on the day, just 45 seconds under and were also awarded first place in the larger 16km class, against 16 other competitors.

Canterbury at Cust Domain, Canterbury

December 16th and 17th 2017

With a heat wave rolling through New Zealand, most competitors and crew were prepared for hot conditions at this event and they sure got them!

Canterbury Endurance and Trail Riding Club Hosted Event 2 of the 2017/18 New Zealand FEI Series.

The Phillip Graham and Helen Bray designed track was a real test for all the competitors during the weekend. It incorporated everything Endurance has to offer and more and saw the win of the 120km 2* event go to Australian Combination, Naomi O'Shaughnessy and Castlebar Party Girl, closely followed by Party Girl's NZ Based Trainer the incredibly experienced Kevin James and Glendaar Fire Maid. Rounding out 3rd place was Alison Higgins and MF Bab Al Shams who was also awarded the Best Conditioned Horse. The 120km event was of true international quality with Christine Stomps, Penny Toft and Alexandra Toft also competing in the event.

The youth division had one entrant, 11 year old Kate James and Charati. This pairing looked super all day and Kate finished just behind her father Kevin in the 120km event. They were later awarded Best Conditioned Horse.

The 80km 1* event on Saturday was won by the super consistent team of Vanessa Tiffen and Stoneleigh Summer Fire, also taking out Best Conditioned Horse. Second place went to Lisa Simpson and Summersdale About Time with Helen Graham and Sherwood Mia rounding out the top 3 in this event..

Sunday's temperatures climbed another 5 degrees from Saturday, giving the crew something to really work for all day! The 80km 1* was won by Adena Middleton and Aurora Kool Kat, with husband Craig 2nd on Sunnybrae Red Lace, 3rd place went to Heidi Bulfin on the Kevin James trained Glendaar Splash of Fire. Best Conditioned was awarded to 4th place Bridgett James and Zeuxis

Again, just one junior was entered in this event. Caitlin Holmes and Westray Precious had a lovely completion for First Place and Best Conditioned Horse.

One comment after a thank you post on face book which truly summed up the weekend was:-

"I know our sport is in good heart again. One of the standouts for the weekend was the sportsmanship that is often a feature of endurance. Those who vetted out loaned their shady hold pens to others and distributed their ice stocks. What a super bunch of people"

A huge thank you to our sponsors for the weekend goes to Toft Endurance, Mitavite and Pro-dosa. We are so grateful to have your support.



Make a Difference

Photos by Paparazzi on Tour





It seems that ESNZ Endurance is certainly doing its bit for Trans-Tasman relations this season. Christine Stomps put out feelers this season and scored a ride at the Cust FEI ride.

Aussies at Cust

Over the weekend of 16-17 November I ventured from my home town of Melbourne, Australia to the Cust FEI ride in the Canterbury region of New Zealand's South Island.

The South Island was as picturesque as I remembered it when I visited over 10 years ago. The Canterbury region heading to ride base was really pretty with kilometres of post and rail fencing, green grassed paddocks and enormous manicured hedge rows. Ride base had a lovely relaxed atmosphere and the weather over the weekend was glorious.

I had flown over to ride on David Marshall's bay gelding Dahman Madraz and after passing the veterinary check I hopped on for a little familiarisation ride. Thankfully, that was a lot less dramatic than my pre-ride in the United States a month earlier! I then headed on down to my overnight accommodation at Rangiora Lodge Motel and had a really good counter meal at the Plough Hotel. Rangiora was just under 15 minutes from ride base and it was great to have the luxury of a little sleep and good meal before attempting the 120km 2* event the next morning.

Highlighting the lack of FEI rides Australia is currently experiencing, nearly half the 2* event competitors were Aussies! In addition to myself, were Naomi O'Shaugnessy (VIC) and Penny and Alexandra Toft (QLD). The ride had a camera and electronic chip system setup that enabled those in base camp to see us as we approached certain points on track with cameras and also for the website to be updated with positioning throughout the ride. I know that my husband back in Australia was

able to keep a track on the event throughout the day. On one of the holds I send him a message that I had successfully completed a leg and I got back - yeah I already know! I would love to see this technology implemented at home.

The ride started at 5.30am and for the first three legs six of us were travelling more or less at the same pace. The course ran the same 40km loop twice and was a mix of mown roadside verge and a river crossing with a section on rocks - not something I've had to do at home. They weren't little pebbles! The horses didn't seem to mind though. It was starting to get quite warm by midway through the second leg.

The third and fourth loops shared the same 20km track which headed out along the roadside verges and did a big loop through a farm with a rather large hill climb midway through. I know a lot of helmet dunking happened at the trough at the top! After some speedy strapping off the third leg (kudos to the crew) Madraz and I headed out first on the fourth leg but were very soon caught and passed. We ended up placing fifth with Naomi O'Shaugnessy and her mare Castlebar Party Girl the eventual winners. I was also invited to present for best conditioned which was subsequently won by Alison Higgins.

The ride organisers had arranged a lovely catered dinner for all in attendance on the Saturday evening which preceded the short presentation ceremony.

I really enjoyed the ride, the weather and the South Island scenery. I'm very much looking forward to returning to the North Island in 2018.

Thank you to everyone over the weekend for making me feel welcome with special thanks to David for allowing me to ride his horse and achieve my goal of completing another FEI 2* event.

Christine Stomps



Photos by Cathy Nolan



My experiences in Endurance and CTR so far

I am a newbie to the sport of Endurance and CTR riding. I did my first 25km CTR last season in Fairlie with the Mackenzie Riding Club. After the ride, people asked me how I liked it and I heard myself say, "I love it, I think I'm a bit hooked":

Other than that I've only done another 30km endurance ride and my first 40km endurance ride with Mt. Nimrod at Macraes Flat. It was worth traveling to Macrae's Flat just for the stunning scenery of Sue & Logan Latta's property.



People call it Middle Earth and the ride was absolutely breathtaking with awesome piles of rock formations and ponds. It was a very hilly course which is very misleading to the name Macraes flat. (I'll know for next time...). I could kindly tag along with three very experienced endurance riders, making the whole ride more fun and social. As a social butterfly, this was much more appealing than the lone ranger approach.

Two of the experienced riders convinced me that they were "Going to take it easy" because one of them has a young horse. It became clear very soon that we had different perceptions of the word

"easy". After cantering for what felt like around twenty kilometres my arms grew weary of trying to keep the 500kg beast beneath me in control, so I figured that he would eventually grow tired and trot like I'd been asking him to. I'd never experienced such big trotting strides on my wee quarter-horse as he tried to keep up with his newly found Arabs friends who seemed to float above the surface.

The next 20 kms were a less hilly terrain and just as beautiful as the first 20 kms. I remember all four of us cantering through the finish line thinking "Aren't we supposed to walk through the finish line to keep the heart rate down?" But regardless, I chose to abide by the saying "ignorance is bliss." And it truly was! 3.5 hours of it. I truly loved it.

A few new rules have recently been put in place, which doesn't worry me because I didn't know the old rules. A lot of people have been very helpful in answering my many stupid questions. Even helping me to strap my horse after the ride to get ready for the vet check. They would have seen my horse do anything but stand still for this, as everything is just as new for him as it is for me.

Thanks very much MT Nimrod club for making my first 40k ride such an awesome experience. We will be back.

Note to self: Don't build your holding pen right next to the starting line unless you want to be woken up by your horse cantering around it's pen at 6:30 am.

Daniela Schneider, Jireh, Queenstown

Last but not least



2017 will be remembered fondly by some and relinquished to the past for others. Happy 2018 everyone. Hope it's a good one.