

The Distance

October-November 2017



Our smallest riders are getting smaller !!

Editorial

At the ESNZ AGA in Wellington there was a presentation from a guy who worked with the Crusaders on 'Building a winning culture'. He told us how the top players all referred back to the stated values of their club (organisation) and asked themselves if they were living the values. Listening to the rugby commentary last weekend brought this talk back to mind and led me to ask myself if I was living up to the values of our organisation. They're on the ESNZ website. He said to us that its not enough to look at them once and then forget about them. You need to keep reminding yourself and asking 'am I living up to the values. Our Core organisational values are: Welfare of the Horse, Integrity, Excellence, Unity, Fairplay, and Respect.



I'd like to think that I'm doing OK at the moment - sometimes I catch myself about to 'fall off the wagon' as it were, but I would like to think I usually manage to haul myself back into line before committing a major transgression. I think maybe I should print them off and pin them above my desk just so that stay on the straight and narrow.

In the meantime, I hope the weather (its soooooo often about the weather) is treating everyone well at least some of the time and horses are getting fitter. See you on the trails.

Daryl Owen

ESNZ Endurance Board 2017

Board members have been working on various projects since the last meeting. The revised rules are due to be voted on at the upcoming SGM in Wellington. The forums to discuss the rule revisions were cancelled because there were so few people interested in coming. Those who had said they were attending were contacted and invited to make contact to discuss any issues they had regarding the rule revision. Feedback was sent regarding the FEI rule changes, expressing objection to the proposed introduction of minimum weights for juniors from 2* up. It obviously pays to speak up. Vicki Glynn argued this point strongly (with others) and won. Lots of work has been done on sponsorship and also on reviewing and updating the club affiliation document. The strategic plan has also progressed.

The next Board meeting will be Saturday 25 November, fitted around the SGM on the same day. Any issues for the Board should already have been sent to Jo Lankow to be added, but if there's something else you want to be dealt with please make sure you get in touch with one of the Board members.

Upcoming rides

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

North Island 2017-2018

Upcoming in December:

Kohuratahi FEI event
Ruahine
AWEC 30/31

And in January
Wairarapa
NORTH ISLAND CHAMPS

South Island 2017-2018

Upcoming in December:

Marlborough Seaview End & CTR 80/40/20
Canterbury

And in January
Marlborough
MacKenzie
Canterbury

Officials Panel

Looking through the list of available officials (in the North Island anyway) we seem to have done a really good job of getting people promoted from trainee. There are not many trainee judges or TDs on the list anymore. Having more officials across the country means that the work is spread between more people. The majority of our current officials are also riders, and they need to be able to compete sometimes as well. If your club is interested in running an Official's course please contact Jo Lankow. Without officials we can't run rides.

Rides around the country

Ruahine club

Ruahine Bulls Ride at Helden Farm

Labour Weekend saw a range of experienced and newbie horses and riders turn out for the Ruahine club ride at a new ride venue. Although many might have thought that the course would have been flat and easy, the reality was that there was a real variety of going with some soft spots ready to catch the unwary. Bull holes and other natural hazards were enlivened by gusty conditions to make for an exciting ride for some.



Huuuuge jump over the 'creek' crossing for Sacha Boyle, and then Sean Trafford's stallion comes along to show how its done.

Jane Ferguson and Tina Plaistow in the 60km



Pre-ride vetting on the Saturday morning allowed a 9 am start for the 80 km riders

with 80, 60 and 40 km rides scheduled for that day. Sandie Warren on Craig Royston Zarita led the field in for the 80km Open with Jayden Loveridge on Makahiwi Phoenix hot on their heels – a combination to watch out for this season. Jayden is maturing as a rider and

Maureen may have lost the horse for the season – at least until her bid to return as winner at the Man V Horse event at Pukeokahu on April 14th! Ruth Dawber and Miro Bonique were in a couple of minutes later for 2nd in the Open Senior 80 km, closely followed by Ross Hill on Rewa and another 14 minutes back to Daryl Owen on Miro Lugh. Deirdre Bartlett on CR Xmas Star and Andrea Smith on Glenmore Vixen clocked a steady 7-hour 80 km for the horses' first 80 km rides of the season.

The Novice 80 km riders all came in over 7-8 hours with Leanne Ireland (riding Supre Neightly) accompanying Sacha Boyle (on Ngapa Zircon) on the last loop after RNZ Fordite (ridden by Shantalle Geurtjens) was lame after 2 loops. Pippa Roberts drove Don & Beryl's truck down from Northland and rode her first 80 km on Wai Totara Moon Star before clocking up another 40 km on KD Zade on the Sunday. Beryl was doing a roaring trade with some specials over the weekend including tempting one of the vet students to accessorise with matching helmet and saddle blanket – expect to see her out at some RADRs events this season. Murray Smith brought Glenmore A'Complish back to base on the second loop when he felt she wasn't quite right.

Sean Trafford on Rivergum Dark Knight and Jane Ferguson on Daagir had a good ride in the Open 60 km though Jane rode most of the way with Tina Plastow on Woodlaus Destiny ME who was riding a Novice 60 km and Caroline Lewin brought KS Future Design through the Novice 60 km at a steady pace – although the horse had probably already done about 20 km in its pen.

Ruahine's other Sandy (Marshall) was the first home in the Open 40 km on Jamila Two with Gemma Haywood on Roselea Royal Fire and Debbie Davies on Arahi Liquid Silver about 20 minutes behind. Three junior riders rode together in the Novice 40 km along with Maureen Davie on Makahiwi Scimitar and 4 senior and one junior rider in the Intro 40 km.

Saturday's prizegiving and a shared dinner were held that night in the woolshed – a good social function enjoyed by all.

Sunday dawned somewhat warmer and sunnier but just as windy. A range of 80, 40, 20, 10 and a 5 km lead rein class were all offered. The shorter distance rides brought quite a few local distance riders and newbies to the event with horses of all shapes, sizes and breeds. One of the cutest was a 'Thelwell' type pony who had been rescued from a poor home and this was her first



outing – this pony had to be as wide as it was tall but took everything in her stride with not even a blink at the wildly flapping marquee.

Ruth Dawber on Miro Dusty Trails turned the tables on Sandie Warren (this time riding Craig Royston Zaria) in the Open 80 km event though the winning time was about 30 minutes slower than on the Saturday. Lisa Southon on Tararua El Dente and Cherry Brown on Tararua Diablo came 3rd and 4th. Sadly, Delights Crystal King was lame at the final check for Tayla Morris in the Junior Novice 80 km leaving Tyler Bumby on Prince Caspian who had travelled all the way from Tauranga to take out the class. Those with names beginning with A had the Novice 80 km class to themselves (Amanda McConachy on RNZ Phosphor, Amanda Mills on Glen Rae Amin, and Andrea Mason on Felix). Sue Drinnan had travelled down to accrue another 40 km towards lifetime kilometres on Charm II. Four senior riders qualified their Novice 40 km including Sean Trafford on another stallion – Prince Eligani SPA. One of the funnier moments in the middle of the day was Knight suddenly seeing his own reflection in Sean’s truck and repeatedly challenging himself. Fortunately no damage occurred except perhaps to Knight’s reputation for intelligence!

Sylvia Ireland on Levi and Emma Mason on Emma-horse were among those in the Intro 20 km event along with 4 other senior and one junior rider. There were 10 entries in the Intro 10 km class (including one Junior) and 6 kids in the lead rein class including Annaleigh Merrick on AH Balalaika – a horse well known to many in the endurance community. A lot of effort had gone into the costumes for this class with the clear winner being Lachlan Boyle on “Optimus Prime” (aka – the pony formerly known as Blue Boy). There were sweets to keep the kids’ energy levels up on the ride – hopefully they shared them with the parent who had to walk the distance, and then prizes all round on completion.

Waikato club at Matiere

Just when it looked like a venue for this date wasn’t going to happen, Sean Trafford put his hand up and volunteered his lovely property and training area. This was a welcome return as the views from this course were among the favourites last season. With the rain coming in on the Friday and more on the Saturday morning the decision was made not to use Loop A, which had some very steep and slippery patches for the first day of riding. With a dry afternoon and a good wind the track improved for the Sunday, and the track did not disappoint. Riders on Saturday came in very happy that the course had been exactly what



their horses needed at this point in the season. With the late notice for the ride going ahead entry numbers were low, but those who made the trip certainly appreciated it.



Ruth Dawber and Miro Blaze of Glory settled into a steady pace in front for Saturday's 80km, claiming the win. Sue Drinnan and Charm II also finished well, taking second place. Georgia, Andrea and Murray Smith followed in shortly after along with Stu Wakeling. Maureen Davie rode a slow and steady 40km on Makahiwi Scimitar – the track was a very different track to previous

outing at Bulls! Miranda Swierstra enjoyed a successful novice 40km ride on Mauku Bella, and (very) local riders Alix Rogers and Sean Trafford completed good 40km rides on Supre Ramiro and Prince Eligani SPA.

Lisa Davenport and Jenny Chandler were out with new novice horses, opting wisely for the 20km distance on Arahi Dark Knight and Arahi McCaw. Pip and Isla Mutch also opted for the 20km track on Mauku Venus Mauku Mistique. Isla was the youngest competitor for Saturday .



The weather held overnight and the 80km riders headed out at 6am to tackle 'the big hill'. The loop was definitely challenging with some big climbs. One slippery section was a compulsory dismount, but the track held up really well overall, with lots of variety. A pulled shoe was the reason for one rider not completing, and the effect of hill walking on aching knees led to another. Jayden Loveridge looked very much in control in the 80km distance, taking the junior win on Makahiwi Phoenix, and Daryl Owen completed successfully in first place in the senior class. Well done Pippa Roberts completing the 80km on KD Zade

The star of the weekend was our youngest rider. Ramiro Trafford was very excited to be doing his very first endurance ride and completed the 5km lead rein class on his pony Stiney, expertly led by mum Alix Rogers. We look forward to seeing more of this young man in the future.



Note: Stallion may differ from picture

... and at Thornton

Waikato returned to Thornton Beach this season with the hope of running a training camp on the Saturday and rides on Sunday. Best laid plans often don't work out the way we intend and the camp didn't attract the numbers hoped for – maybe a different location next year. As always in endurance the weather plays a major part. Saturday was cool and very windy. Fifteen headed out to do 40km though. Sue Drinnan and Charm II were clear winners of the event with Mike Bragg and Miro Blaze of Glory in second. This was Mike's first ride after breaking his leg earlier in the season – can't keep him down for long. (Andrea third? Pot luck dinner enjoyed by all and then a dusk/night ride on the beach. Apparently the foam on the beach is much scarier at this time of day. Needless to say, it wasn't a long ride.

Wairarapa club - Tinui Valley CTR

Out towards the East Coast of the Wairarapa lies the small, historic village of Tinui. Renowned as the location of the first Anzac service in New Zealand, it is a scenic, hilly mix of farmland and forestry. This year the ride was concentrated on farmland, with the track tested the week before by Ana Whitehead and friends.

26 riders had a crack at the challenging hill track, and rode beautifully with a 100% qualification rate, apart from one early retirement by a new rider on a slightly wired horse. The open 33km class was won by Frank Aldridge on Mystica Bandito, with the intermediate 33km taken out by Anna Graham and the very experienced CTR expert, AH Loop the Loop. Tayla Morris and Delight's Crystal King won the junior, just ahead of new club member Emma Watson on the former Ross Berrett ride, Little Victory, with this new combination showing good promise of shining in the junior grade. The novice 19km class was strongly supported by 15 riders, with Helga Grant delightfully snaffling the red ribbon on Jane Ferguson's Daagir.

This ride is always well supported by locals, some of whom make an annual pilgrimage to test themselves and enjoy the views.



Cath Shannon and Jacqueline Lumsden out on course

Club life member, and start-finish line extraordinaire Carol Whitehead and apprentice



Jacqueline Lumsden winning a lovely selection of Tinui Valley products in the club raffle

... and at Matahiwi

The Wairarapa ride at Matahiwi near Masterton was held mid-November, two weeks earlier than the traditional date due to the pending FEI ride at Kohuratahi. The new club pre-entries system gave early promise of big numbers, with over 50 entered prior to the day, but the organising committee were blown away when 78 riders in total competed across the weekend. The floats just kept on coming on Sunday, and the ground crew pulled together and worked very hard to ensure everyone had a good day. An enormous vote of thanks goes to Stuart and his team of vet students for stepping up to cope with the larger than anticipated numbers.

Saturday was mainly a CTR day, with 30km and 6km classes on offer, along with a 40km endurance ride. The highlight of the day for many was the lead-rein class, where seven gorgeous young riders lined up with their parents or family friends to head out. The class was won by the youngest rider of the day (possibly the youngest rider ever at a club event), who is not yet four – Leila Fiso riding Willowspring Brecon. The class was closely competed with some excellent scores posted.

The focus on Sunday was endurance, with distances including 20km, 30km, 40km, 60km and 80km on offer and all distances supported. With dry weather conditions affecting feed, stock was spread throughout the farms resulting in more gates than usual, but we were most grateful to the landowners for generously giving us access and opening everything possible. The open senior 80km was won by Ross Hill and Rewa on an exceptional sub-5 hour riding time,)and I could see how he managed this time when he

bounced off his horse to open a gate, sprang back on, and was away in the time it would have taken me and my riding companion to decide whom was opening it J!)

It was a fabulous day for the club, and there was a real buzz around the grounds. The track rode beautifully and kindly, with many successful qualifications.



Jay Cooper-Morris and Daagir sharing a moment during a successful vetting after her first ever competition



Miles of miles indeed as Leila accepts her first place ribbon and prize from club President Shane Dougan

Marlborough

Marlborough club have been busy organising rides in the last month or two and are busy organising their upcoming ride at Seaview – looking forward to seeing the photos from that one!! Personally I'm currently regretting living too far away to make it to these stunning Marlborough venues. Keep up the good work Marlborough club.





Canterbury at Hororata

Canterbury had a great weekend at Hororata – lots of novice endurance horses and riders out along with Open/Intermediate entries.

Provisional results are on the club facebook page, subject to confirmation.



Hannab Ballantyne-Hororata C



Hannab Ballantyne-Hororata Ctr Oct 17

Mt Nimrod Macraes Flat

Mt Nimrod had an excellent day at their November ride. The photos speak for themselves (and again I'm contemplating a move to the South Island with scenery like this!!)



Nelson

Nelson club had four seasons in one day for their November ride. As with all endurance its not so much the numbers but the quality of the experience in most cases. Tessa Wells on Masada Park Maestro took first place in the Open Senior 80km, just ahead of Irene Minchin on Opportunity Knox. Kirsty and Alison Higgins followed on in for third and fourth on Northwinds Apollo and MF Bab Al Shams

Linda Harmon and Samantha Jarvis cruised in for first place in the Intermediate Senior and Junior 40km on MF Shaheen and FF Governor. Donna Boyd on Euralea Emagine finished comfortably in second place for the Seniors. A good number of riders turned out for the 20km track as well.



Equidays

Farmers do Fielddays, equestrians do Fielddays AND Equidays. This year the ESNZ Endurance and CTR stand at Equidays focused on what we do best. And what we do best is see amazing scenery. We had poster sized photos up on the walls and kept changing them around so people kept seeing different scenes. Those of us on the stand were asked many times 'where's that picture from, how do I get to ride there?' Many people had their photo taken on our champion endurance horse, back for a second year at Equidays and we made sure most of them wore a helmet. If you see someone new out there at a ride ask them where they found out about us. Wouldn't it be great if lots of them said 'I saw it at Equidays and wanted to be part of the Miles of Smiles.'



And then of course there was the gallop finish. Great to see so many people enjoying our stand

This article/blog popped up facebook. I think its interesting to note the emphasis on horse welfare, rider education and public relations right from the beginning. And 160km bareback in 11 hours!!!

In the beginning - Australian Endurance Horse Welfare

[September 26, 2017](#)

IN THE BEGINNING - AUSTRALIAN ENDURANCE HORSE WELFARE

Jo Hamilton-Branigan BVSc(Hons) (Endurance Vet/Rider)

In 1965, RM Williams was the Editor (albeit remotely) of Hoofs & Horns, at that time the leading monthly horse magazine in Australia. As a result, he and wife Erica were exposed to what was happening internationally and both became fascinated particularly by the coverage of an American endurance ride, the Western States 100 miles in One Day Ride, now commonly referred to as the Tevis Cup.



Erica Williams on Noddy, 1975 TQ

On Rockybar Station and the like, it was a normal everyday activity to spend long days in the saddle working cattle. There was also a very proud Australian history of droving stock across the continent. As well, the ANZAC Lighthorsemen who were renown as superb cavalry; their historic feats at Bathsheba not yet fifty years past.

So it was that these organised endurance events fired the imagination of the Williams'

who thought that this form of riding would be a natural challenge in an Australian setting. The thought also *"if those Americans could ride 100 miles in one day, then surely we could too...."*

This was reflected in the magazine. In the November '65 edition of Hoofs & Horns, there was an account of the most recent Tevis. The Western States Trail Ride entailed riding from Lake Tahoe to Auburn, California crossing the Sierra Nevada Range - the most difficult of terrain. Eighty-three competitors started and 53 finished. The winner in a time of 11 hrs and 38 minutes. Then in December, a story about the first Golden Horseshoe ride in England, which took place in Devon, South West England over 50 miles (80k). It was so popular that entries were limited; 110 started the event. In the January edition, there was a long article by Wentworth & Linda Tellington titled "Managing a 100 mile One Day Ride". It gave quite a comprehensive picture of how an endurance ride should be organised, supervised (by veterinarians) and ridden.

By early 1966 the readers were clamouring for more & suggesting an event be held in Australia. Gradually a concept was born and a meeting organised in 1966 during the Sydney Royal Show for the purpose of organising a 100-mile endurance ride. This meeting was held at the Australia Hotel, Sydney on April fifth. The ride date decided upon was the first Saturday in October 1966.

Point of Interest: There were two venues proposed and voted on - the Windsor-Colo area in the Hawkesbury Valley, just west of Sydney & the Mallee area of Mildura, Victoria. A very good case was made for each location but when put to the vote, the Hawkesbury location won narrowly by 12 votes to 11.

Inevitably, the sport of endurance riding has been under the microscope since its inception with regard to horse welfare issues. Both, the RSPCA and the Australian Welfare League were quick to investigate and scrutinise the early events for animal cruelty and other indiscretions. It was not long after the inception of the first Tom Quilty in 1966 that the RSPCA revealed they were totally against endurance as a horse sport and determined to stop it from happening. The RSPCA were unconvinced that this sort of riding/event could be achieved without compromising the horse. They threatened legal action and prosecution under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act - due to over-riding. It became widely publicised, even making the London papers, causing the Australian High Commissioner to contact the Premier of NSW. In his embarrassment, he set about putting a stop to the ride. The Commissioner of Police was given the task

& detailed the local police and stock squad to arrest those "mad horse people" if they started the ride.

Originally the ride was set up as a race for prizemoney with \$300 for the winner, \$200 for second, \$100 for third the prize. However, when it was revealed that it was illegal to race on public roads or byways for prizemoney that idea was abandoned. However, this didn't stop RM from commissioning the now famous, prestigious Gold Cup, a perpetual trophy to be awarded to the winner. Or the Newbridge Trophy donated by Dick & Selma Best, similarly perpetual, for the first registered Arabian or derivative. And, of course, the now famous silver Quilty Buckles for those that completed the course in 15 hours (total, including rest stops).

Tom Quilty, a long time friend of RM's, of Springvale Station in the Kimberly area of WA was approached to sponsor the cup which was named in his honour. Generously he provided \$1000 which provided the impetus to get the first ride up and running. Tom Quilty was a legend in his own lifetime, much like RM; he was the last of the old time Northern cattlemen. Horses were Tom's greatest love. He knew many great ones and bred them too. Tales of Tom's ability as a horseman are many, but he was always in the saddle and they were everyday occurrences to him. *"We used to ride 100 miles from Euroka to Cloncurry just to send a telegram."*

Little known fact: The original Tom Quilty Gold Cup contained 38.5 oz of gold, which made it heavier than the Melbourne Cup. These days the original cup is on display at the Stockman's Hall of Fame, Longreach, Queensland.

Fortunately Erica had the foresight to undertake much groundwork with regard to horse welfare prior to the event. She had approached Professor David Hutchins, veterinary superintendent at the Rural Veterinary Centre Faculty of Veterinary Science Camden, NSW and organised veterinary supervision of the ride. Veterinary charts and parameters from the Tevis were used to form a basis to work from in Australia. At the time the maximum heart rate recovery was 70 bpm after a 30 minute rest period. Senior students were sent to Rockybar to observe and record parameters on the prospective endurance horses at rest and after set amounts of work. Quite an amount of data was collected before the event to make sure that the parameters were appropriate.

Notably, on the letter of communication to prospective Tom Quilty competitors Erica's post script includes

"No whips or spurs allowed."

"All competitors being interviewed by the press please note that this is an "Endurance Test" being conducted by the University of Sydney."

Professor Dave Hutchins was a tower of strength in those early times and without his help the sport of endurance riding in Australia would have been set back many years. The RSPCA tried to find a veterinarian to challenge the official ride veterinarians, but they could not find a single veterinarian who was prepared to argue with Dave Hutchins, such was his high reputation.

Dave Hutchins agreed with the concept of no prize money. He considered that it would put undue pressure on the vets from some riders who may have wanted to win at the expense of the well-being of their horses. He thought that more elaborate controls would have been necessary regarding timing and stewarding if that were the case to control over zealous riders. He was happy also that as there wasn't any prize money it would be regarded an amateur sport.

On the day of the event the police were present, as were the RSPCA and the Animal Welfare League. They scrutinised the event from start to finish. The competitors ever aware they were under the watchful eye of animal cruelty critics. The RSPCA had warned again that they would institute legal action if the 100 mile horse race took place. Riders rode carefully and at the smallest sign of a rub or injury or tiredness showing they withdrew. Sometimes on the advice of the veterinary team.

It is Quilty legend now that Gabriel Stecher won that first ride astride his Arabian stallion Shalawi completing the whole distance bareback, in the time of 11 hours 4 mins. Of the twenty-six starters only seven completed the event.

The welfare critics were mixed. The Animal Welfare League representative, Inspector G. Mole said he could see nothing in the endurance ride which suggested cruelty to horses. While on the other hand, the RSPCA Inspector Tomlinson described it as atrocious. In the Sydney press he was quoted as saying the RSPCA would do all it could to prevent a recurrence of the event. Despite all his ranting and raving the RSPCA were unable to prosecute any rider for cruelty to a horse.

For many years the RSPCA and the Animal Welfare League were invited and continued to attend the Quilty. The AWL chief inspector, Mr Mole always came and gave his

approval of a well conducted event. The RSPCA were less than complimentary and often quite rude but did not attempt to discredit endurance riders through the press again. Due to ongoing veterinary involvement the RSPCA eventually lost interest and after 1970 no longer attended Quilty rides.

In his report to the Quilty Committee post ride David Hutchins gave his veterinary perspective and made suggestions for subsequent rides.

A summary of his points are as follow.

1. *General Organisation - To have a separate roped off area for checking entrants.*

2. *Standards for Qualification to Continue - the standards used weren't perfect but useful, practical and fair and a good guide for future events.*

3. *General Comments of Horses -*

- *horses needed to be better trained*
- *riders needed to manage their horses correctly with regard to feeding, watering and dressing*
- *entrants needed to be impressed upon only to train sound horses*
- *greater attention should be paid to shoeing, many were poorly shod*
- *riders needed to be familiar with average speeds over long distances. It was felt too many went too quickly in the early stages. A steady pace is well sustained.*
- *education for intending competitors is most urgently required if future rides are to be held.*

4. *Our observations have convinced me of the importance of having veterinary supervision at all times.*

Hence, the legendary event we know as the Tom Quilty Gold Cup was born. Likewise, the long association and respect between the sport of endurance and officiating veterinarians.

Reference: "The First Quilty. The birth of Australian endurance riding." By Erica Williams. Greenmount Press. 1998.

Professor David Hutchins was awarded a medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in 2000 for services to veterinary science as an equine specialist and through the Rural Veterinary Centre of the University of Sydney..

December Distance

... and Happy New Year. If you have anything to contribute to the Distance please send it in by Wednesday 27 December.

Have a good month everyone.

Last but not least

