



**March/April (and May as well) 2019**

**Morning fog in Taupo at Nationals**



## Editorial

I really enjoyed Nationals this year. For my team it was a big ask this year. Getting five horses to the start line is an achievement in itself. And then organising the people and the camping ... For me this year I only had a couple of hours to travel, but for those travelling between Islands the amount of organisation required is even more daunting. What I love about Nationals in particular is that feeling of being involved in something bigger. It really is a showcase of the sport. I love that our Champs events are inclusive and bring everyone together, from the leadrein class introducing a future rider through to a high class field of 160km competitors. Some really good things have happened in our sport this season. I'm seeing a good number of people stepping up distances. There have been 15km riders stepping up to doing 25km, 20km riders stepping up to do 40km, first time 160km riders, new horses being brought up through the distances, juniors moving up to compete as seniors ... This is what its all about. I think I probably sound like a broken record on this, but I love that our sport enables people to set and achieve their own personal goals. We're at the admin end of the season now. The forums generated good ideas and good discussion, and there will be another chance before the AGM in Christchurch. The draft calendar is out. There will be changes to it yet I'm sure, but its maybe not too soon to start at least setting some goals for next season



See you out there.

Daryl Owen

## ESNZ Endurance Board 2018

Since about December the Board have largely been occupied with the organisation of Nationals and with organising forums and the upcoming AGM. There's always a fine balance between operational and governance for any Board. There is much happening around FEI rule changes. The proposed rule changes will be released two days after the upcoming AGM, so it will be important for everyone to give feedback to the Board to pass on to the FEI.

As per our rules we have three Board members standing down this season. Applications should be in by the time you read this. I look forward to an influx of energy and ideas for the sport for next season, both within the Board and the membership.

## Still to come ...

June 1-2 Junior Camp  
June 16 Canterbury – West Melton Forest

July 6 AGM – Christchurch

Time out and then NEXT SEASON!!

## The season thus far ...

### Ruahine ride at Waiouru – 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> March 2019 by Jenny Weston

Thanks to the many who supported our club ride at Waiouru over the weekend – it was a good turnout and ideal training for the National Champs occurring four weeks later. Probably the biggest 80 km field we've seen this season in the North Island. We were blessed with good weather – not too hot during the day and not too cold overnight. This is a nice ride for the vets, officials and strappers to see the action as the 30 km loop has riders going through base a couple of times prior to them finishing. The 16 km loop out to Waiouru and back was particularly enjoyed by riders but they were instructed to “follow the markers” as the course took them north through the swamp and then back to base riding along tracks just inside paddocks alongside SH1.



Saturday saw rides starting from mid-day with both Trudi Thomas-Morton and Jayden Loveridge riding in 60 km classes (and they both rode 80 km the next day also), eight going out to ride 40 km, three for 20 km and one in the 5 km lead rein class. Apart from one early metabolic vet-out, possibly due to the abundant grass at ride base, all horses qualified. Speeds ranged from 9 – 12.4 km/hr and people were clearly just out to qualify their





ride although there was a fair amount of work in the course and ride base was at elevation to start with so it was tougher than it looked. Allan Haigh on Lone Star Donatella took out the Intermediate 40 km and Isla Mutch on Sahar Park Moondance gained a bunch of new fans with the team she rode with who nicknamed her their “secret weapon”. Well done to Chris Watson who led his daughter Ashlea on Scarlett O’Hara at a good speed of 5.92 km/hr around the 5

km course.

A notable mention on the Saturday was a return to competition for my own mare Pharra (trained and ridden by Sandie Warren) following a life-threatening injury at the start of the season which resulted in her being hospitalised at Massey for 5 weeks and then a further 5 weeks stabled at home before she could be turned out into a small area in a paddock. It was great to see her looking so good after her 40 km ride a mere 204 days since her injury. My very grateful thanks to all those involved in her care and recovery – amazing what is possible when you have experts on the case and agree to just keep paying the bills.

Sunday rides started at 7 am with 26 horses starting in the 80 km classes. It was obvious how quickly we are losing the extra daylight with it only just being light for the start. There were five entries in the 60 km event and five in the 40 km rides on the Sunday. Riders were going a bit faster with a number in the 13-15 km/hr range. It had been planned to open up some more of the gates on course but the cows with calves at foot did not cooperate so we Roger Ireland and Joanne Loveridge spent a bit of time on the quad bike and side by side rounding them up and returning them to where they were supposed to be. Thanks to Murray, Stu and Roger for bringing all the water up to the ride base throughout the weekend.

Most horses on Sunday qualified but a couple of horses stumbled out on course which put them out of the ride at the next vet gate with one being lame and one withdrawing due to exacerbation of a rider injury. Pippa Roberts and Don Sagar on their Wai Totara horses led the way on the first loop but Sue Reid and Pip Mutch overhauled them on the second loop with Sue on Kowhai Martini taking line honours by a second from Pip on Mauku Bella with Don in third. The Open JY 80



km event provided the finish of the weekend with Tayla Morris riding seasoned campaigner Makahiwi Phoenix to a gallop finish over Jayden Loveridge on Mizraim Florence.

Notable mention from the Sunday competitors was Makahiwi Geneca qualifying a lifetime 4,000 km by getting round the 80 km course. Amanda McConachy must have felt the tension when required to trot the horse out a second time at the final vet inspection but all was well.

Prizegiving ceremonies were held at the end of each day and we shared a delicious pot-luck dinner on the Saturday night. This track is always a favourite among competitors and we appreciated that so many people travelled a fair way to join us.

### **AWEC – Te Atiu Creek**

AWEC's last ride of the season was a welcome return to Te Atui creek. The turnout for the day wasn't huge but those who made the effort has a great day. Well done to all of our entrants who completed their rides.



A massive thank you to Doug at Poland Motors for the use of the mule, thank you to Brad who kept it safe for us. Thank you to Auckland Council & thanks also to Trevor from Cafe2U for traveling all the way from Botany to cater for us.



Lastly, but not least, thank you to our helpers, track markers and the Bolers.

See you all again at Atiu for our December ride.

### **Mt Nimrod – Castle Ridge**

Mt Nimrod had a glorious weekend for this event, with CTR classes from Open 40km through to Novice 10km. Jenna Underwood and Colorado Skye were consistent performers to take the win in the Open 40km class. The Intermediate 25km win went to Jude Protheroe and Oakabella Milo, with Rena Johnson and When the Cats Away taking second place. Rachel Stocks and BTR Windsong claimed the win in the Novice Senior 25km, and Nicole Crawford took the Junior 25km on Suny Brae Elise.

Endurance classes ranged from the Novice 25km through to the Open 80km. Saturday's Intermediate Senior 740km class saw first equal given to Kathy Mouatt and Rocket II and Jackie Keene and Kowhai Annalieza. Heidi Bulfin and Stonelea Sparkling Rose claimed victory in the Senior 80km event with

Stephanie Wilmotte and Mazreem taking second. Sunday's intermediate 60 km Senior event was won by Debby Burson on Banu's Wind Dancer, with Rachel Stocks on BTR Windsong taking second.



#### Marlborough – CTR at Musgrove Downs and Erina Downs



The settled weather held for the Marlborough CTR rides as well, with the club's Facebook page full of happy comments from happy riders afterwards. Wonderful country and well organised rides. Results for all of these events are on the ESNZ website, with only non-completion over both events congratulations to all.

## Nationals

### 2019 DUNSTAN HORSEFEEDS ESNZ ENDURANCE and CTR NATIONALS

Easter weekend on the Equestrian Sport New Zealand Endurance calendar is traditionally time for National Champs. Weather conditions have in the past been everything between solid rain through to extreme heat. This year the event was run in Taupo, in the North Island of New Zealand, from the National Equestrian Centre. The weather held for the whole weekend, with cool temperatures and heavy fog in the morning, clearing to crisp clear conditions. Clever course marking made the most of the surrounding farmland and the track was a mix of hill, flat and farm tracks, with Loop B being run in the opposite direction for variety. As a rider it was fun and surprising to put the geography together as the sun came up – most of the track was much closer to base than it seemed. The National Equestrian Centre sits in a river valley alongside the Waikato River, which means there is often dense fog, and so it was for both days of this year's Endurance Nationals, sponsored by Dunstan Horsefeeds.

This event is the pinnacle of the endurance calendar in New Zealand. The ride programme is inclusive and welcoming to all levels in the sport, with pride of place going to the 160km Championship ride. A glance down the start list of the main event gave an indication of the strength of the sport. Among the starters were three past National champions, both senior and junior current North Island Champions, a number of horses doing their first 160km ride and also a number of riders stepping up to this distance for the first time.

The 1am start was a quiet affair as 16 headed out into the fog. As is often the case with riding at night there was very little chatter, just people focusing on their riding, the footing and their horses. The marking is done with reflective road markers and these can be tricky to spot in the fog. Leading from the outset of the ride were current North Island 160km Champion, Pip Mutch on Mauku Bella and past National Champion Susan Reid on Kowhai Martini. Throughout the day these two extended their lead and looked rock solid throughout.



Heading out 15 minutes after the seniors, junior riders Ana Whitehead of Dundevale Nazecca and Patricia Ireland on Sayfwood Oshaarnna also rode out into the fog for the JY 160km Championship. Riding together all day these two looked relaxed and strong. Unfortunately the penultimate loop saw Ireland vet out lame, leaving current North Island JY 160km Whitehead to take the National title as well, with a winning time of 12:13:51.

She and Naz were also awarded Best Conditioned for the class.



Kohuratahi Endurance Club. Mutch was also awarded Best Conditioned for the class. With third across the line going out lame at the last it was first time 160km rider Ruth Dawber and Miro Dusty Trails who took third place, just ahead of another rookie combination Jane Ferguson on Daagir. Past title holder Georgia Smith was next in, with first time 160km horse Glenmore Style Ish, and Ursula Keenan was rewarded for a slow and steady ride with a successful completion for sixth place on Tokopuhe Iceberg.

Back in the senior class the course was beginning to take its toll. This course gives the impression of being easy. There is a lot of good going, but also quite a lot of hill work and the volcanic country can be hard under foot. The end of the day saw six combinations successfully through the final vetting. First place, in a gallop finish went to Pip Mutch and Mauku Bella just one second ahead of Susan Reid on Kowhai Martini, with a time of 10:41:53. This was the first time taking this National title for Mutch, and she later dedicated her ride to her late father Pete McLellan who was a stalwart of the sport and



There were other classes being run on the Saturday as well. Novice 80km and 40km classes were run on Saturday with Open riders taking the opportunity to qualify novice horses, and novice riders taking the



opportunity to participate at a national event also, as they qualify through the levels. Smallest of these new riders was five year old Erin Adams on Misty Lea First Edition, completing her first 5km leadrein class. Another generation is introduced to endurance.

Sunday saw another young junior achieving, and a third generation of the McLellan/Mutch family. Isla Mutch and Sahar Park Moondance and Patricia Ireland, in her second ride of the



weekend, this time on Hyforce SFW Blue-J, rode the whole way together, with Mutch crossing the line ahead of Ireland to take the JY 60km title in 4:44:59. The Intermediate Senior and Junior 60km classes are traditionally the fastest of the weekend. This year riders kept 'race brains' under control and the completion rate was very good. One rider, new this season, withdrew on course because he felt his horse was over tired. On seeing the heart rate in the results he now wonders if maybe the horse wasn't as tired as he thought. Meanwhile, back out on the track, out in front by about seven minutes the leader unfortunately was put out lame at the last, leaving Kylie Whiting on Jahdai Mona Lisa in a time of 4:13:26. A half hour later, second placegetter Sandy Marshall and Jamila Two crossed the line just ahead of Hilary Webb on Westhills Pharraah. This was a wonderful result for this horse as she had rehabbed from horrific injuries earlier in the season after a non-riding incident. Dedication of the owner and the veterinary staff have seen the horse return to competition and achieving. Fourth place saw Chris Tylden and Cyden Razeek successfully returning to endurance competition, and fifth was taken by Maureen Davie on Charm II. Rounding out the field Max Ringwood and Makahiwi Nebraska took sixth place.

First out on Sunday however was the Senior 120km class, heading out at 3am in dense fog. Sean Trafford on his stallion Prince Eligani SPA headed for the front from the outset and stayed there all day. Right up to the last minute it was uncertain whether Trafford would be able to compete, after a bad fall only a number of weeks ago. He looked strong and balanced all day however and completed the ride successfully in a time of 8:29:15, almost half an hour ahead of second placegetter Pippa Roberts on Wai Totara Rameriz. Out this year with a different horse Jenny Champion took third place on Tararua El Dente, and after an interrupted season Deirdre Bartlett took fourth place on Craig Royston Xmas Star. Last in for a safe completion Nadine Barker took fifth place on Arahi Zinzan.

The final class for Sunday was the JY 80km non Championship event, which saw Fiona Stephen finishing off a successful season on new mount Arahi Courtship.

The weekend wasn't only about endurance. This was also the 2019 ESNZ CTR Championships. After completing the 30km distance at the North Island CTR Champs Paula Watson stepped it up to compete the CTR Open 62km at Nationals, completing the course 1:53 outside the optimal time with a total CTR score of 179.

The results of the CTR Intermediate 40km came down to heart rate, with Tammy Peacocke and Makahiwi Scimitar taking the win with a total CTR score of 110. Close behind was Magdalena Dunowska and Kaptive. Keith McLeod and Sayfwood Manzoni took third place and Kirsten Benson and Primero Portia were fourth. In the CTR Junior 40km it was all about Megan Perrott and Kyrewood Miss Marlie, winning the class with a CTR score of 95.

Last but not least, the CTR Novice 20km was very tight between first and second. Stella Hansen and Firefly took it on heart rate and a total score of 116, with Storm Franklyn and Sunset Dream Maker a close second. Third place went to Rachel Hills and Pocahauntas, with Robin Hirst and Fursin Feliciana in fourth.

Congratulations to all the placegetters and qualifiers, commiserations to those whose plans didn't go quite according to plan. With the weather beginning to close in its time to regroup, rest for a number of horses, and start planning for next season.

## Points tables

Our Sports Administrator is working hard on getting the end of season points tables and results finalised. I'm sure I'm not the only eagerly awaiting the Distance awards. In the meantime the Horse and Rider tables have been updated. Congratulations to Pip Mutch and Mauke Bella who finish well ahead in the Senior Horse and Rider table, and also took the FEI series and shared joint lead in the Championship Series with Ana Whitehead and Dundevale Nazecca. Ana and Naz were clear winners of the Junior FEI series, and also Junior Horse and Rider.

Sandy Marshall and Jamilla Two laid claim to the Intermediate Horse and Rider series, with Zoe Neubert and Makahiwi Cercie well ahead in the Junior Intermediate Horse and Rider series.

The leaderboard on the CTR tables is a little more tight. Robyn Hill and Purdark lead the Open CTR Horse and Rider table, with Angela Sloan and El Etruscan well in front in the Intermediate CTR Horse and Rider. Grace Blyth and KD Migal have a commanding lead in the Junior CTR Horse and Rider, and Kym Gough and Lucy have a narrow lead in the Novice CTR Horse and Rider.

Sharing the top spot on the CTR Open Distance Horse of the Year are Colorado Skye and Silands Double Delight. When the Cat's Away holds the lead in CTR Intermediate Distance Horse of the Year, and KD Migal in the Junior CTR Distance Horse of the Year. Angela Fergusson holds the top spot in CTR Novice Distance Rider.

## Forum

Forums were recently held both in Christchurch and Palmerston North. Thanks to all those who were able to be there and contributed to lively discussion. Minutes of these forums are now on the website [https://www.nzequestrian.org.nz/disciplines/endurance-ctr/strategy-growth/#r\\_2\\_tab2](https://www.nzequestrian.org.nz/disciplines/endurance-ctr/strategy-growth/#r_2_tab2) At both forums there was a lot of discussion about promotion of the sport and attracting new members, with a big focus on making better use of social media. One of the biggest sources of stress for both ride secretaries and our Sports Administrator has been the processing of results, and a possible way forward for this is to develop a results resource for all clubs to use. This would mean that results would be delivered in the right format and more people would be familiar with the programme, meaning less stress on a small pool of ride secretaries.

Ride admin, in the form of minischedules and traffic management plans were also raised as a major cause of stress. Both forums suggested that the TD is ultimately responsible for making sure everything ahead of a ride is in place correctly. This all comes down to legal responsibilities and making sure everyone is covered just in case. Health and Safety is something that absolutely has to be taken seriously.

The issue of having novices at Championship events was raised and the majority at both forums agreed that novice events should be included in these events.

There was discussion around being able to run back to back 40km rides. There was differing opinion on this, with some thinking it should be up to the individual rider. Ultimately participating in back to back events could affect riders who eventually decide to enter FEI events. Education would be required around this issue.

Changes to the format of the Board were discussed. The idea was raised to reduce the number of people on the Board. This would require a change to the bylaws so can't happen this year.

There has been feedback from the FEI Temporary Committee. Unfortunately the proposed rule changes will not be published until just after the AGM. When they come out it is important that our members send in their views so that our representative to FEI can speak for us. There will be more information on this as soon as the proposed rules are released.

The trial period for running CEI and CEN together has now finished and all agreed that this has been very successful and combined events should be continued.

There was discussion around High Performance and also around the ESNZ Constitution review. At the South Island forum Warren James stressed that endurance has a good structure and that its important for endurance to keep its current structure rather than area groups. He stressed the need to submit on keeping alternative structures available. Warren also felt it was better for clubs to be incorporated societies as this offers more protection to clubs in scenarios where there is theft, and fraud of club funds and equipment.

**AGM** – time to make sure trophies are cleaned and engraved. If you can't make it to the AGM make sure you get any trophies to either Jo or a Board member.

### **2019 ESNZ Endurance AGM**

6th July – The Redwood Hotel  
340 Main North Road, Christchurch

### **Accommodation Details**

Accommodation is available on site with rooms costing \$99 (for 2) or \$119 (for 3) per night.

Reservation details: [reservations@the-redwood.co.nz](mailto:reservations@the-redwood.co.nz)

03 352 9165

<http://theredwood.co.nz/>

On-site parking is available.

### **Timetable: - Subject to change**

Friday 5th July

- Endurance Board Meeting 3.00pm – 9.00pm

Saturday 6th July

- Forum 8.30am

- CTR Meeting 11.00am

- AGM 1.00pm

- Prize Giving 4.00pm

Sunday 7th July

- Endurance Board Meeting 8.00am – 12.30pm

<https://www.nzequestrian.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2019-AGM-Notification.pdf>

**Officials** - I asked Barbara Avery, our Steward General what led her to being an official for our sport.

## **Being a Endurance Official**

I have been asked by Daryl to put a few things down on being an official & also a bit on my recent promotion. With a couple of bullet points to work on as follows;

### **What made me get into officiating?**

I guess it started some 30 plus years ago, when I started CTR then moved on to Endurance. Having two girls who wanted to ride, I decided I could play both games, me on the Endurance track competing & the girls riding CTR, after all we could only float two horses. While they competed in their code I helped with marking tracks, vetting, did lots of TD'ing & ground Jury work along with the day secretary for the Marlborough Club. It was a good match in my eyes and I suppose from there the interest to further advance my knowledge & help grew. As the years past I backed off the riding side of things to pursue my other passion of strapping & continued with TD'ing & GJ work for other Clubs. With so many wanting to ride, getting qualified officials grew tough, so often I would travel & officiate.

### **What I get out of it**

I am a person who likes to help, so from that, being on the ground as an official so others can ride is satisfaction that I am contributing part of the spoke that keeps the Endurance wheel rolling. Working alongside other like-minded people is interesting, particularly at FEI events with foreign officials. Getting an understanding of how their country works or other foreign countries they have officiated at is helpful, interesting & good knowledge to have.

### **Why Stewarding**

I owe it to those who I have been fortunate to learn from, that being Ron Guest, Richard Armstrong & Wendy Farnell along with the leaders at FEI Official Courses. Each one of these guys gave good advice & the more I assisted under them, the more I enjoyed and aimed that one day I could hold a Chief Steward roll myself. As mentioned earlier, I like to help and I feel a steward is a helper.

- A person who brings food/water to a team (particularly a rider off track)in the treatment
- One who makes sure all officials & ground staff have food & water plus breaks
- The Recovery Float contains not only a halter, lead rope & cover, but also horse water & bucket. The 4WD is equipped with water for the rider, blanket, pillow & towels.
- During the day we walk for miles checking horses not competing, finding out what the tracks like in the FEI Hold & asking if all is good. I guess we have eyes looking everywhere and at the same time, are friendly people who are always available for questions, chat, concerns and try to be problem solvers before things go pear shape.
- One important job we do is being a support for a rider if another official (i.e. President GJ & GJ Member) need to inform a rider of an issue or change. (i.e. Course error correction, helping injured rider on track etc). We are there for SUPPORT & to witness that things don't get heated, you are spoken to in the correct manner but most important, YOU UNDERSTAND what you are being told. With this said PLEASE, make sure you have a steward (chief or assistant) there for you.

### **Where I think it might take me**

I would love to officiate as a Steward overseas that's for sure. While keeping my feet firmly on the ground, maybe assisting for a start, as really I'm still learning my way as a Chief Steward. Eventually my aim is to officiate internationally as a Chief Steward; yes I know that's a very big pair boots to full.

## **New Position as Endurance Steward General**

Firstly it was a complete shock in the first breath but upon taking another; wow, what a privilege & honor to be considered by the ESNZ Endurance Board. I have a mentor to call on, which I'm not too proud to tell you and they have been very helpful.

What it involves; So far I have worked through some concerns that members have raised with me. Some via phone calls and others at events. Once again the Steward General is there to help in all general areas if a member has a concern. I am only a phone call away & will do my best to resolve or pass onto the correct party.

On closing; I would like to encourage others to consider Stewarding. Yes it takes time & many FEI events working as an assistant in a small country, but you will learn a lot plus be a huge assist to Clubs holding FEI events. I was very fortunate to have three new assistants at the Nationals last month who were all interested to learn. It gives confidence to our sport, that other people are willing to follow the footsteps of becoming a Chief Steward too.

Barbara Avery (ESNZ Endurance Steward General)

## **Junior Camp coming up**

This weekend is the annual Junior Camp. There is a full programme of activities planned over the weekend. Here's hoping the weather is awesome and everyone has a weekend of fun and learning.

## **Seminars**

### **ENDURANCE SEMINAR: SELWYN EQUESTRIAN CENTRE. 19TH-21ST JULY**

Friday 19th July 5:30pm: Robyn Mauger from Hygain NZ will talk on Performance Horse nutrition requirements with examples of feed. This will be a relaxed session with nibbles and refreshments. Potluck tea to conclude the evening.

Saturday 20th July:

8-10am: Group riding session with instruction from Kate Honour (Performance Coach).

10-10:30am: Morning Tea (provided).

10:30-12pm: Management of Metabolic issues and injury of Endurance Horses with Dr Nick Page.

12-1pm: Lunch (provided)

1-2pm: Massage and Stretches for horses with Kate Honour

2-3pm: Post competition care of Endurance Horse with Susan Reid and Andrea Smith.

3pm: Afternoon Tea (provided).

3:30-4:30pm: Basic Foot balance and Hoof care with Rodney King (NZ Endurance team HP Farrier).

Catch up and general discussions.

Sunday 21st July

Masterclass of riding lessons for members of the Development and Mentoring group.

Private lessons available (either small group or individual) Saturday evening. Please contact to discuss additional requirements and pricing.

Minimum numbers required to run event. All registrations due July 5th with payment by 12th July.

Cost: \$300 or Early bird fee of \$250 if registration and payment is made by 28th June into the ESNZ Endurance Account: 06-0705-0339389-00, reference (surname and seminar).

Members of the Development and Mentoring Group cost: \$150

Non riding option: \$200 (no Early bird option)

Enquires: Andrea Smith smithenduranceteam@outlook.com or 063825535/0276934750

Or Susan Reid robert.susan.reid@xtra.co.nz or 092325802/0272775355

Note: timetable subject to change.

Normal camping charges at Selwyn Equestrian Centre apply

## **ENDURANCE SEMINAR:TAUPO NATIONAL EQUESTRIAN CENTRE. 26-28TH JULY**

Friday 26th July 5:30pm: Revell Douglas from Hygain NZ. Performance Horse nutrition requirements with examples of products available from Hygain. This will be a relaxed session with nibbles and refreshments.

Potluck tea to conclude the evening.

Saturday 27th July

8-10am: Group riding session with instruction from Kate Honour (Performance Coach)

10-10:30am: Morning Tea (provided)

10:30-12pm: Management of Metabolic issues and injury in Endurance Horses with Dr Tony Parsons.

12-1pm: Lunch (provided)

1-2pm: Massage and Stretches for horses with Kate Honour

2-3pm: Post competition care of the Endurance Horse with Susan Reid & Andrea Smith

3pm: Afternoon Tea (provided)

3:30-4:30pm: Basic Foot balance and Hoof care. Speaker TBA

Catch up and general discussions with Pizza dinner.

Sunday 28th July

Masterclass of riding lessons for members of the Development and Mentoring Program

Private lessons available (either small group or individual) Saturday evening. Please contact to discuss additional requirements and pricing.

Minimum numbers required to run event. All registrations due July 12th with payment by 19th July.

Cost: \$300 or Early bird fee of \$250 if registration and payment is made by 5th July into the ESNZ Endurance Account: 06-0705-0339389-00 ref (surname and seminar).

Members of the Development and Mentoring Group cost: \$150

Enquires: Andrea Smith smithenduranceteam@outlook.com or 063825535/0276934750

Susan Reid robert.susan.reid@xtra.co.nz or 092325802/0272775355

Note: timetable subject to change.

Normal camping fees at Taupo NEC still apply

## Focus on the rules

The question often comes up with new riders on what to do when they decide they're hooked on the sport and now want to become registered. Can they claim back the kms they're already completed. The rule around this is as follows:

2.3 Claiming Kilometres A maximum of one Novice 40-50km ride can be claimed retrospectively for horses. These rides must have been done within the current/same season of the date of the first time the horse is first registered with ESNZ (i.e. if you register in November, you can only claim one ride from August to the time of registering in November). The rider must have been a current Full or Child member of ESNZ and a current financial member of an Affiliated Club to enter the rides being claimed. To claim these rides send the following to the ESNZ Endurance Sport Administrator: Copy of the Day Vet Card Completed ESNZ Equine Registration Application form Completed Horse ID form Blank stamped envelope

The rules are on the website easily accessible if you would like to check on anything.

<https://www.nzequestrian.org.nz/esnz/rules-regulations/endurance-rules/>

## Tips from the Vets

### **Tetanus – a very nasty but preventable disease**

After hearing from a friend recently that she had lost a 3 y.o. gelding to tetanus I thought it might be useful to provide some information about this disease and vaccination schedules. I don't know what her horse's vaccination history was but I'm pretty sure he would have been vaccinated at least once at castration about 24 months earlier. He was away being broken in, was thought to be unwell on the Monday, seen by a vet who prescribed antibiotics for a respiratory infection, then was down and suffering seizures at first light the next morning – hence he was euthanased.

Tetanus is caused by a bacteria from the Clostridium group. These bacteria are widespread in the environment, particularly in soil and many other bacteria in the group can cause sudden death in a

range of animals e.g. pulpy kidney in lambs, blackleg in cattle, botulism (not as sudden but still very nasty). One feature of these bacteria is that some can be consumed accidentally (soil or other contamination of feed) and localise in the animal's gut or muscles and survive quite happily, not causing a problem for the animal, until something about the tissue environment changes. In pulpy kidney, the bacteria are in the gut of the sheep and a sudden change in diet to lush feed allows the bacteria to suddenly overgrow and start producing toxins. In cattle, the bacteria lie dormant in the muscles and it requires some muscle damage (generally bruising following handling or trauma) for the spores to germinate and do the damage. All the clostridial bacteria cause a problem by releasing very dangerous toxins rather than the bacteria actually multiplying and developing a serious infection. This is what allows the disease to kill the animals so quickly as they are essentially poisoned (the toxins stop important cellular functions and can cause spasm, paralysis, depress the brain etc).

Tetanus can develop when the bacteria are introduced or exposed to a low oxygen environment. This commonly occurs following a deep, penetrating wound such as standing on a nail. The fact that the wound is deep means that there isn't much oxygen around – an external scrape, even when it is quite severe is less likely to lead to tetanus. Sometimes, the wound that has caused the problem won't even be noticed by the animal or the owner. I've seen and successfully treated the occasional dog or cow with tetanus – they can survive if diagnosed relatively early in the course of the disease. Horses deteriorate quickly though and are a lot harder to treat. The clinical signs of the disease generally relate to the toxins causing muscle spasm in various parts of the body. This is particularly obvious around the head of an animal and by the way they are standing or if they are having difficulty moving normally. Tetanus is also called 'lockjaw' – an apt description as animals struggle to open their mouths or eat properly. They are also described as having a 'sawhorse' stance – meaning that their front feet are well in front of them and hind feet out behind. 'Sardonic grin' may be seen as the lips are pulled back from the teeth (particularly in dogs) and excessively pricked ears and furrows across the forehead are all down to the muscle spasm. The third eyelid may be partially across the eyeballs and animals may be overly sensitive to noise or touch. Animals that can't stand and are rigid lying flat on the ground have a very poor chance of survival as are any that develop seizures. Death usually occurs due to paralysis of the muscles required for breathing but most animals would be euthanased before that happens.

Vaccination is essential given the rapid onset of clinical signs and death and the fact that you may not know that your horse has suffered an injury. Booster tetanus vaccinations are commonly given around the time of surgery e.g. castration to provide extra protection and when a horse suffers a known injury. Foals are best protected by making sure that the mare gets a booster vaccination about a month before she is due to foal. This will provide higher levels of antibody in her colostrum but it is essential (as always) to ensure that the foal gets several litres of colostrum as soon as

possible after it is born. A foal that fails to suckle in the first 12 hours is going to be at risk of lots of diseases. Young animals need to be at a certain age to make a response to a vaccine so they need to get their own first vaccination at 3 months old and then a booster a month later. It is this second vaccination that helps to maintain longer lasting protection – consider it a reminder about the disease. The next booster should then be a year later so horses should all be vaccinated at 3, 4 and then 16 months old. Thereafter, the manufacturer recommends an annual booster but most equine vets would be happy with a booster at least every 1-3 years with these being more frequent if the risk is considered to be high or following an injury. Different vets will give you different answers to how often these ongoing boosters should be and 5 years has also been stated



but at Massey we've definitely seen cases of tetanus when horses were within 5 years of a vaccination so it obviously needs to be more frequent than that. In the USA, it is pretty much standard that the booster is given every year.

Things can be a bit more confusing in that it takes time for the animal's body to respond to a vaccine and produce antibody. The vaccine is called tetanus toxoid as it contains inactivated parts of the bacteria and this is what the antibodies are made against. Tetanus anti-toxin is also available and this provides much more immediate protection in the event of injury, however this doesn't provide particularly long-lasting protection. The anti-toxin will protect against the toxins that may be produced if an infection becomes established but it needs a vaccine to provide longer-lasting protection following an injury. This is why many horses are given both a tetanus anti-toxin and tetanus toxoid when they sustain a wound.

Tetanus vaccines need to be authorised or prescribed by a vet so you need to discuss this with them and they can advise what would be the most appropriate frequency for boosters after the initial three shots. This may vary according to the environment and how high the risks are for your horse. This recent loss for my friend has made me re-evaluate the frequency of booster vaccinations for my own two horses and I would hate for anyone in the endurance community to lose a horse to what is a preventable disease. It isn't a pleasant death for any animal and also distressing for those who see an animal with this condition. Talk to your own vet about what you should be doing for your horses. If an adult horse hasn't ever been vaccinated it will need the first course of three shots with the initial dose, a booster a month later and a further booster 12 months after that.

Jenny Weston

## And finally ...



Have fun, stay warm, enjoy.