

DRESSAGENZ

Issue 24 | July 2018

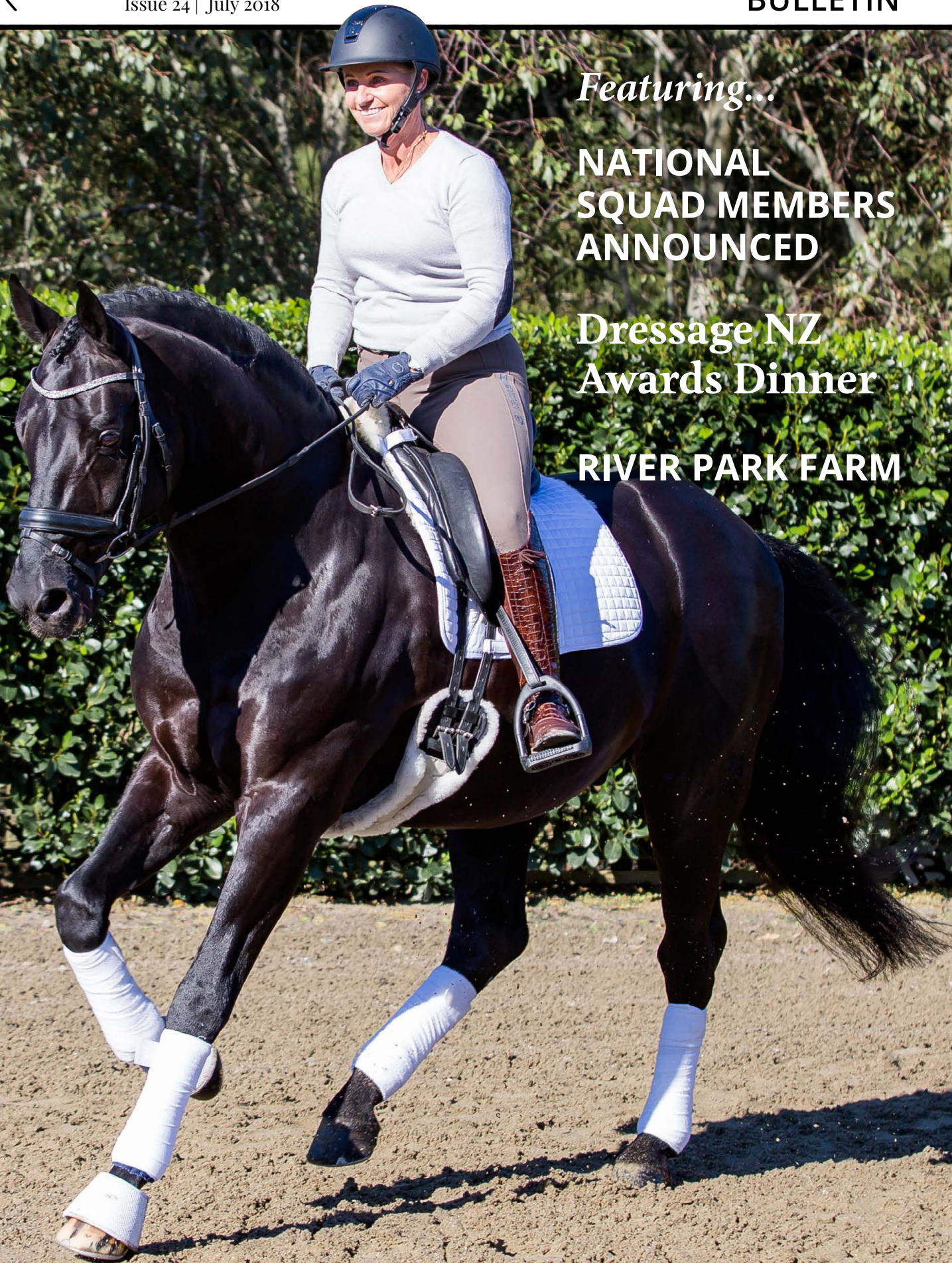
BULLETIN

Featuring...

**NATIONAL
SQUAD MEMBERS
ANNOUNCED**

**Dressage NZ
Awards Dinner**

RIVER PARK FARM





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sarah@snaffledesign.co.nz



**EQUESTRIAN SPORTS
NEW ZEALAND**

The DressageNZ Bulletin is the official magazine of Dressage NZ - a discipline of Equestrian Sports NZ

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Photo Credit: Kimi Knight

Back Image: Winter Vibes
Photo Credit: Kimi Knight



DRESSAGE

FROM THE EDITOR

**WELCOME TO ISSUE TWENTY FOUR
OF THE DRESSAGENZ BULLETIN**



Another year is truly over, culminating in a particularly entertaining and inspiring awards dinner.

The conference mood was very positive as we welcomed some new delegates to the team. It is so healthy for our sport to have genuine input to a wide range of topics from a broad cross section of our delegates and members.

It is easy to become very focussed on “sweating the small stuff” but presentations from three guest speakers took us out of our own relatively small world of domestic dressage. Vicki Glynn who represents Equestrian Sports NZ at FEI level as Secretary General for NF NZL transported us across the globe focussing on the FEI and international administrative developments; Chris Rogers, Associate Professor at Massey University presented a light hearted but thought provoking snapshot of dressage related international research papers and Nick Pyke, Chair of the ESNZ Board outlined the wide range of across discipline activities and initiatives undertaken by the ESNZ national office. A wide range of National Office functions specifically support the dressage discipline but these often tend to fly under the radar. One of the key functions is managing and maintaining the database and accompanying income that dressage then receives via annual dressage starts. This alone is no small task. Brooke Dillon, recently appointed ESNZ Para Sport manager outlined the challenges facing para riders and how area groups can assist overcome those challenges.

As we head into the new season, NZL will be represented internationally with much excitement surrounding these events. Congratulations to Sarah Wilkinson and Hello D'Ottie who have qualified for the 6yr old Pavo cup semi-finals and the World Young Championships at Ermelo in August. Julie Brougham and John Thompson continue their WEG campaign at the Saugerties CDI 3* in mid-August and then it's the really big one with the first horse inspection at WEG on Tuesday 11th September. AJ and Steiny will be boarding the plane for the USA as you read this issue. Competing internationally is a long and arduous journey. Let them all keep safe and have a fabulous time looking for that personal best. Thank you to all the many supporters of the 2018 WEG campaign and our thanks to the riders for the inspiration they give our sport and our future.

Wendy Hamerton



4



11



20



22



26

CONTENT

4

NEW SEASON SQUADS

We have an exciting announcement for tomorrow's talent...

7-10

LATEST HAPPENINGS

The news from across the country and around the globe...

16

RULES AND AMENDMENTS

Don't miss out on the latest changes ...

18

MITAVITE QUESTION OF THE MONTH

Mitavite discusses feed types for the pregnant mare...

20

A HEALTHY PREGNANCY

This month Equibreed share their top tips for keeping your mare in top health...

24

GET FIT FOR SPRING

Improve your balance and leg strength with Equifit...

28

DNZ AWARDS DINNER

Photos from the annual dinner and celebrations...

34

WHAT'S ON

The calender of upcoming events on the NZL dressage circuit...



DRESSAGE

EXCITING ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEW SEASON SQUADS



*Dressage NZ and ESNZ High Performance selectors have announced the 2018/19 Squads
Congratulations to all riders*

ESNZ HIGH PERFORMANCE

John Thompson and JHT Antonello (Waikato)
Julie Brougham and Vom Feinsten (Central Districts)

ESNZ HIGH PERFORMANCE FUTURES

Abbie Deken & KH Ambrose (Taranaki)
Kieryn Walton & Rosari Don Carlos (Bay of Plenty)
Melissa Galloway & Windermere J'Obei W (Marlborough)
Melissa Galloway & Windermere Johanson W
Vanessa Way & NRM Andreas (Taranaki)
Vanessa Way & NRM KH Arion (Taranaki)
Wendi Williamson & Don Amour MH (Waitemata)



DRESSAGE NZ SQUADS

YOUTH

- L6 Amy Sage & RM All About Me (Auckland)
- L6 Lucarne Dolley & Ardmore (Waikato)
- L4 Brina Carpenter & Plutonium Lady (Auckland)
- L4 Madison Schollum & Kinnordy Golda (Waikato)
- L4 Nicole Sweney & Flute Noir (Auckland)
- L3 Grace Farrell & Vollrath Luigi (Auckland)
- L3 Tessa Van Bruggen & Fiorenza (Marlborough)

DEVELOPMENT SQUAD

- L5 Holly Leach & HP Fresco (Waikato)
- L5 Vanessa Way & NSC Pronto (Taranaki)
- L4 Betty Brown & Hot Gossip (Auckland)
- L4 Dani Simpson & Greenmoor Euphoria (Canterbury)
- L4 Jan Morice & Denmark (Nelson)
- L4 Kallista Field & Felix Westfalia FE (Sth Hawkes Bay)

ADVANCED SQUAD

Carol Christensen & Vollrath Leila (Wellington)
Julie Flintoff & Belladonna MH (Northland)

Above: The 2018 FEI World Dressage Challenge NZL Team who have all been named as Squad members, from left Kieryn Walton, Julit Flintoff, Lucarne Dolley and Melissa Galloway.
Photos: Libby Law Photography



STÜBBEN - LIKE NO OTHER

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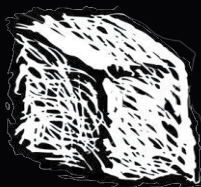
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Successful course participants, from left; Linda Warren-Davey (NZL), Natallia Rubashko (BLR), Agnieszka Majewska (POL), Alla Soubbotina (RUS), Anna Eliseeva (RUS), Claudia Thaler (AUT) with Course Directors Dr Dieter Schule (GER) and Leif Tornblad (DEN).

NEW FEI YOUNG HORSE JUDGE FOR NEW ZEALAND

Congratulations to NZL 3 FEI judge Linda Warren-Davey on gaining her FEI Young Dressage Horse judge qualification.*

Linda shares the Moscow experience
16,500 kilometres is undoubtedly a lengthy distance to travel to attend an International Young Dressage Horse FEI course with exam, but when an opportunity arises to learn from two of the most experienced and knowledgeable clinicians in the international equestrian world about a specialised aspect of dressage judging, the distance to Moscow suddenly didn't seem so far, so tickets were booked, application for my visa was accepted and I was on my way.

The Exam was held at Maxima Park, a state-of-the art equestrian facility set on 60 ha of picturesque rolling countryside. With several indoor and outdoor arenas, lunging arenas, an aqua therapy walker, solariums for each stable wing, indoor and outdoor horse walkers, 300 stables, plus gymnasium and spa facilities, accommodation, café and restaurant for the two-legged guests, it was easy to get lost, and my first day was spent resting up and familiarising myself with this fantastic facility.

Maxima Park was also hosting the Russian State Dressage Championships including an international Young Horse competition, so there was plenty of activity, and the young horse classes were used for the shadow-judging part of our exam. Six of us from five different countries spent the first day of the course discussing the theory behind the young horse concept, and analysing videos. The second day was spent shadow-judging the 5, 6 and 7-year-old classes, followed by a written exam. We spent a lovely evening sightseeing and enjoying a delicious dinner on a large man-made lake, joined by the Show judges. All of us were feeling nervous, as the following morning was our individual oral exam and interview with Course Directors Dr Dieter Schule and Leif Tornblad, international dressage judges whose lives have been immersed in riding, training, breeding, judging at the highest levels, and whose wealth of knowledge they were only too happy to share with us.

The written and oral examination covered training principles, the training scale in-depth, rules and conformation, and each of us were informed of our results at the end of our interview, so it was a long and emotionally charged morning for us all. Sunday early afternoon saw us all sipping champagne and being congratulated by Dieter and Leif on passing our exams, and they were delighted with our knowledge and our engagement in the discussions and sharing of ideas. They finished their speech by asking us to return to our countries and promote the Young Horse concept and competitions, as it is a vital part of the development of the dressage horse and the growth of our sport.

Thank you must go to the FEI for organising the course, to Anna Eliseeva for all her help in organising my trip, to Maxima Park for hosting the Course, and to Dr Dieter Schule and Leif Tornblad for an outstanding three days of education and learning.



CELEBRATING A WONDERFUL 38 YEAR AFFAIR WITH HOBSON HORSECOACHES

It was 1980, thirty-eight years ago when Pahiataua based Sue & Brian Hobson of Hobson Horsecoaches, first made their foray into supporting dressage and dressage competitions. They were both enthusiastic about the concept of a series based on the original Beanbah Prix St Georges circuit prize and from that with their support and encouragement has evolved the current Super 5 League. During this time Sue has been represented NZL in Australia at FEI level, has been promoted to an FEI 4* judge and administratively has held the role of Event Manager, Finance Officer and is the current national Judges Officer on the Dressage NZ Board.

Brian also has held a number of roles, more formally as FEI World Challenge Event Manager and informally as national sponsor liaison, MC at many events plus there were always the bike trips for judges and officials, and of course the after parties in a Hobson Horsecoach (a very clever marketing tool!)

Sue was judging at Hartpury CDI 3* in the UK and could not join the celebration at the awards dinner, but it was fitting that the hundred plus crowd gave Brian a standing ovation following his reminiscent account of his involvement.

But although Sue & Brian have now sold the company the Hobson Horsecoaches brand will remain

synonymous with Dressage NZ and the Super 5 League in the coming season. Shaun Smith, previous foreman for the company is the new owner and will continue the Hobson Horsecoaches long standing association with Dressage NZ. Welcome to the team Shaun.

A thirty eight year sponsorship is without doubt extraordinary commercial partnership with any sport and although this particular facet of the partnership has come to an end, Sue & Brian will remain part of our team. To just say thank you for all you have contributed just doesn't seem to do it all justice. But it is heartfelt for being one of the pioneers is the history of our development.



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From left; Sara Bright with Lynda Clark and Wendy Hamerton



WAIRARAPA HOME TO ANOTHER BATES SADDLE WINNER

The very much valued Bates Saddles sponsorship of the national dressage championships includes a saddle which is raffled to support South Island combinations travel north, recognising not just the distance and time involved but also the cost of the ferry crossing. All area groups support this worthy cause by selling the tickets and this year a total of \$4950.00 was distributed to eleven SI riders.

The 2018 winner was Wendy Jeffery pictured here receiving her prize from Bates retailer, Sonja Garrity from Clareville Saddlery.

SARA BRIGHT RECIPIENT OF THE FISSENDEN TROPHY

Outstanding does not even begin to describe the contribution Sara Bright made to Dressage NZ during her term as Finance Officer on the Dressage NZ Board. As she presented her report and final annual accounts she could be well satisfied with the strong financial position she leaves the sport on to build on for the future. "To be in this position allows the sport to take advantage of opportunities that may be unknown when doing our annual budget" she noted.

Sara has also been a valued member of the Performance Committee and many event organising committees as event secretary and head of the scoring team. Although she will no longer hold the Finance role, we are delighted to know she will still be a part of our national event teams.

The Fissenden trophy is awarded annually for an Outstanding Contribution to Dressage NZ and Sara Bright's name will be etched in Dressage history

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Sarah competing with Hello D'Ottie
Photo: Picturepure

SARAH WILKINSON AND HELLO D'OTTIE HEADING FOR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS FOR YOUNG HORSES IN ERMELO



Sarah Wilkinson and the six year old KWPN mare Hello D'Ottie (Jazz/Sandro Hit) have earned a place for NZL at the World Championships for young horses in Ermelo 3-6 August and then for the Pavo Cup at the KWPN championships a week later.

The FEI qualification guidelines for the young horse world champs are quite complex and as well as minimum performance criteria from an approved competition (75% in an FEI six test at a CDIYH or approved national equivalent), KWPN studbook approval was required for their entry. The combination earned their qualification at Het Kelveen in May (79.5% and 3rd place) and in June scored 84% (1st place) to qualify for the Pavo Cup Semi-finals.



TOKYO OLYMPIC GAMES DRESSAGE APPOINTMENT

Dressage NZ congratulates Australia's Mary Seefried on her appointment as Technical Delegate (TD) for Dressage at the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games.

This is a significant achievement and Mary says she is honoured to have been handed the role;

"I am very excited to be involved in the Tokyo Olympic Games. I look forward very much to working with the organizing committee which is well advanced in its preparations."

"Especially for the Dressage it will be wonderful to see the transformed BajiKoen facility. I judged at the last CDI held in the old facility and it was a sentimental moment but everyone was looking forward to see the new facility. I understand the test event will be in August 2019," said Mary.

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RIVER PARK FARM - A STABLE OF LEGENDS

Photos by Kimi Knight (Stallions)
& Hannah Comrie (Mares and Youngstock)





Renai and the beautiful 'Wally (Swarovski)



Limonit is welcomed to River Park Farm after his retirement from sport



Worldly enjoying his retirement after a phenomenal international breeding career

Photos: Kim Knight Photography

Nestled away in Kumeu, North West Auckland is River Park Farm, a boutique stud operated by Renai Hart that just happens to have some of the worlds best bloodlines hanging out in the paddocks, stables and under the solarium!

Well here is the story of our little stud farm!

It really started many years ago when all I wanted was to breed my very own Anamour. With the help of my wonderful neighbours Gary and Wendy Freeman, I did just that, and this was the beginning of my wonderful journey breeding Hanoverian horses.

I travelled to Australia to a friend's stud farm and fell in love with a beautiful little black colt by Worldly - so home he came to New Zealand.

Sometime later, another Aussie friend posted an advertisement from Eurodressage onto Facebook of this amazing stallion by the legendary Weltmeyer, and as I already had my little colt I had done all my research on Worldly. I somehow managed to convince my husband that to purchase him would be "a very good idea". So on a plane I hopped, with the dream of buying this amazing horse. Following a few logistical hiccups he finally arrived in New Zealand. He has been an absolute gentleman in every way possible. I have learnt so much from him, and you only need to Google his name to see what he brings to the breeding world. Today there are many are many foals from Worldly in the Elite Hanoverian Auctions. His progeny are versatile as not only does he leave quality dressage horses, he also produces not a bad jumping horse and is a perfect producer for amateur riders. Worldly turned 21 in May this year and is now enjoying his complete retirement, which is so well deserved for a gentleman that has given so much to so many.



We have a nice variety of mares in our breeding program which is just that; 'our' program, as every breeder has their own program. We predominantly use German sires but all are proven producers and also in sport. As we have different bloodlines, I always try and pick a stallion that will complement each mare. I also take note of the crossing of bloodlines used in Europe. My only advice is to do your research, Google is your friend. The Hanoverian Society here and in Europe has an amazing amount of resources available to everyone and offer wonderful support. We also have classification tours each year with internationally recognised classifiers who complement our two New Zealand resident classifiers. It's also wonderful that we are now members of the WBFSH, which is a wonderful addition to our international studbook in New Zealand.

The obvious result of having very special mares and stallions is some beautiful young stock who will mostly to be retained for future breeding however, some are for sale. We currently have a Benecio/Londonderry to retain, Worldly/Londonderry, Worldly/Diamond Rock XX, and also two Swarovski Premium fillies; if they sell that's okay, but one is my last foal from my beautiful Ave Maria.

I have been lucky enough to be involved with the New Zealand Hanoverian Society for approximately eight years, and as a result, have been fortunate to be able to travel to Germany where in the early years, I would attend board meetings for Hanoverians International. Last year I was voted as Vice President of Hanoverian International. It is a fabulous opportunity to work with amazing people, striving for the same goals throughout the world. On my last trip I purchased a beautiful Floriscourt filly to add to my breeding program for the future.



Above left: Wally (Swarovski) enjoys a regular fitness programme at home with Renai

Above: left - Don Laura (Imp) (Don Bosco/ Lauries Crusador) and right - Ave Maria (Anamour/ Weltmeyer) Photo: Hannah Comrie

Middle: River Park Bellasaria (Bree) by Benicio

Below: River Park Wailea (Worldly/ Londonderry) Photo: Hannah Comrie





SWAROVSKI

Colour: Black | Year: 2004 | Height: 16.2hh
 Breed: Licensed & Performance tested Oldenburg stallion.
 Breeding: Sandro Hit x Don Gregory II x Rubinstein I
 Licensed: Oldenburg, Westphalian, Hanoverian, Rhineland, Mecklenburg
 Service: AI only
 Fee: \$3220 (incl. GST) (LFG)

Photos: Kimi Knight Photography



SWAROVSKI (Top)

I just happened to be in the right place at the right time! While in Germany for a board meeting, we happened to visit Gestut Sprehe, and the standing under the solarium was my future star! Yet again a call to my ever supportive husband to convince him, yet again, of a fine plan!

Swarovski or Wally as he is known at home has been a fabulous addition to our breeding programme. Wally is an IB Premium licenced, performance tested stallion for the Oldenburg, Hannover, Westphalia and Rhineland studbooks. He is also a successful producer of both performance and breeding horses, again he is another to google for his accolades!

WORDLY (Above left)

The absolute star of our barn!! The producer of many licensed sons in Germany, State Premium mares and countless auction foals, he has also produced many here in NZ since his arrival, while he is now completely retired we get to see his amazing offspring go on here and obviously we have our own in our own breeding program 1997 chestnut 16.2hh Hanoverian. Type, nobility and expression combined with a compact, well-shaped conformation and expressive riding horse are the remarkable features of this extraordinary stallion.

Wordly is retired from stud.

LIMONIT (Above right)

Hanoverian stallion, 170cm. Licensed and performance tested in Germany. Limonit gained the highest dressage score at his Performance test in 2002, and was placed third overall out of 50 stallions.

Limmy as he is affectionately known, is on loan from his owner Vay Snyman as he has been retired from competition. He has bred some amazing progeny in sport here in New Zealand and internationally in dressage and eventing. Limmy brings to New Zealand the valuable bloodlines of Lauries Crusador xx and Weltmeyer.

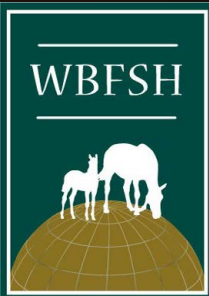
Stud fee: \$1800 (incl. GST) (LFG)



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DRESSAGE NZ RULE CHANGES

Effective 1 August 2018



ARTICLE 441: PLACEMENT OF JUDGES

2 The Judge(s) should sit between 3 and 5 metres from the outside of the arena. If the dimensions of the competition area do not permit the Judge to sit at least 3 metres from the edge of the arena then the Judge should sit as far from the edge of the arena as possible.

Purpose: Provide some flexibility for indoor arenas with limited space

ARTICLE 451: ERRORS OF THE COURSE & TEST

12 The rider has 45 seconds from the sounding of the bell to commence the test. The test commences from the point the horse proceeds on the centre line.

If the test is not commenced within 45 seconds of the sounding of the bell the rider will be penalised 2 points per judge.

If the test is not commenced within 60 seconds of the sounding of the bell the rider will be eliminated.

Purpose: Update wording to provide for starting test from inside the arena, which is now increasingly common.

ARTICLE 451: ERRORS OF THE COURSE & TEST

15 A horse leaving the arena with all 4 feet between the time of commencement of the test and the time of exit from the arena will be eliminated. The only exception to this rule is when a horse is required to recommence a test pursuant to article 451(4).

Purpose: Add exception for when horse is required by Judge to leave arena and restart the test due to course error because it entered in the wrong gait.

ARTICLE 453: USE OF VOICE

1. The use of the voice or clicking of the tongue is prohibited and will be penalised by the loss of two marks from those that would have been awarded for the movement in which this occurred.

Purpose: Remove discretion to deduct less than 2 marks for use of voice.

ARTICLE 454: LAMENESS & BLOOD OR WELFARE CONCERNS

Any horse that shows lameness while competing will be eliminated. The Judge or Chief Judge will ring the bell

to stop the test and explain the reason for the elimination to the rider. There is no appeal from this decision.

(Paras 2 & 3 remain the same)

New para: The Chief Judge may stop a test at any point and eliminate the rider if for any reason the Judge believes it is contrary to the best interests of the horse and/or rider to continue the test.

Purpose: To provide a catch all type provision to allow a Judge to stop a test if necessary for a reason that is not anticipated elsewhere in the rules.

ARTICLE 473: PARTICIPATION

4 Arena Familiarisation

4.1 The OC may permit riders to work, ride in or around the competition arena at such times and on such terms as the OC sees fit. All riders in the same class must be given the same opportunity to work in or around the arena.

Purpose: To remove the presumption that arena familiarisation is limited to working around the outside of the arena.

Notes: The time allocated for each class or classes must be published prior to event

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Dressage NZ Rule Changes Continued...

Guidelines for inhand and ridden arena familiarisation to be put in place for riders and stewards

Riders wishing to take advantage of arena familiarisation must be available at the advertised time for their class

ARTICLE 477: SADDLERY

4. Bits, Bridles, Martingales, Lunging Equipment

4.10 No noseband may ever be so tightly fixed that it will harm the horse. It must be possible to place one finger comfortably between the noseband and the nasal planum (front of the nose).

Purpose: The current rule does not adequately prohibit tightening of the noseband to a point that has been shown to be harmful to the horse. The more common “two-finger” standard was considered but the scientific literature shows that one finger is adequate. The rule has not incorporated the compulsory use of the ISES taper gauge, however the taper gauge can be used to measure the one finger rule and seems a sensible and useful tool for both stewards and riders to use to ensure this rule is being complied with and enforced consistently.

ARTICLE 477: SADDLERY

4. Bits, Bridles, Martingales, Lunging Equipment

4.12 A horse may have its mane and tail plaited for competition but may not be decorated with extravagant decorations. A horse may wear a ribbon in its tail as follows;

4.12. 1a. A green ribbon to indicate that the horse is inexperienced at competitions and the rider would appreciate if other competitors and spectators moved quietly around that horse; and

1b. A red ribbon to indicate that the horse is prone to kicking and caution should be taken around that horse.

4.12.2 False tails may be worn, but must not contain any metal parts.

Purpose: To provide some guidance on the use of tail ribbons for safety purposes. And to clarify that these ribbons do not breach the rule against extravagant decorations. Also separated the false tail rule as a separate clause for ease of reference.

Note: This rule will permit a horse to compete with tail ribbons as per paras 4.12 1a & 1b

REMIT 8: AMENDMENTS TO RULES FOR ADMINISTRATION ESNZ BY-LAW 17

(Subject to ESNZ Board approval)

11. THE COMMITTEE (FOR CLARITY ONLY)

a) iv The President and the CEO/ GM of ESNZ ex officio, as observers only

16. FINANCIAL (FOR CLARITY ONLY)

All transactions must be authorised by no less than two individuals with the authority to authorise transactions. The individuals with authority to authorise transactions will be;

- a. The Dressage Sport Manager; and
- b. Two further officers appointed by the Board of Dressage NZ

17. SELECTORS

c. Selectors will be subject to a yearly review.

Delete this para from the By-Law and include in the selectors terms of reference

19. SUB-COMMITTEES

The Board of Dressage NZ may form sub-committees for a specific purpose. The Board must inform the committee of the membership and Terms of Reference annually to the Committee. Delete this para. Duplicated in Board procedures 10(a) below

10. BOARD PROCEDURES

a) The Dressage NZ Board may regulate its own procedure and may co-opt, appoint or employ individuals or subcommittees for any specific purpose falling within its functions.

Scott McKenna

Dressage NZ Technical Officer



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give me so the mare (and foal)
is in optimum health during the
pregnancy?"*

DO YOU HAVE A QUERY REGARDING THE CARE, MAINTENANCE OR TRAINING OF YOUR DRESSAGE HORSE?

Go to the DressageNZ Bulletin Facebook page and submit your training questions. One question will be selected and sent to one of our participating coaches to answer for you! The winning question will receive a bag of Mitavite feed!

*Thank you Mitavite – for supporting
Dressage NZ*

Congratulations Sherree!



Photo: Hannah Comrie

**ANSWER FROM: GAIL SRAMEK, BAPPSA AGR
CONSULTANT NUTRITIONIST TO MITAVITE**

The aim is to produce a sound, healthy foal that is then grown out into a well-developed sound athlete. Correct care, management and feeding practices during pregnancy and foaling should be incorporated into a breeding program to ensure the young growing horse that is produced is in good health, is sound, is well developed and grown to reach its genetic potential. In addition to ensuring the health of the mare is maintained through all phases of pregnancy and her ability to care for her new foal and to be put back in foal in a timely manner after foaling are addressed.

MAXIMISE PREGNANCY RATES

The ability of the mare to 'cycle' greatly affects her reproductive performance. Cycling is affected by increased day length, a rise in temperature and the condition of the mare. Ideally mares should be on an increased plane of nutrition, making spring the ideal time for conception. If the mare is thin or overweight fertility can be affected. Mares that are maintained in a moderate to fleshy condition i.e condition score 6 (on a scale of 1-9) cycle earlier in the year, need fewer cycles to conceive, have a higher rate of pregnancy and have a higher likelihood to maintain pregnancy than thin mares. A difficult foaling can affect the ability of the mare to conceive within the first two cycles after pregnancy, delaying the foaling date the following year.

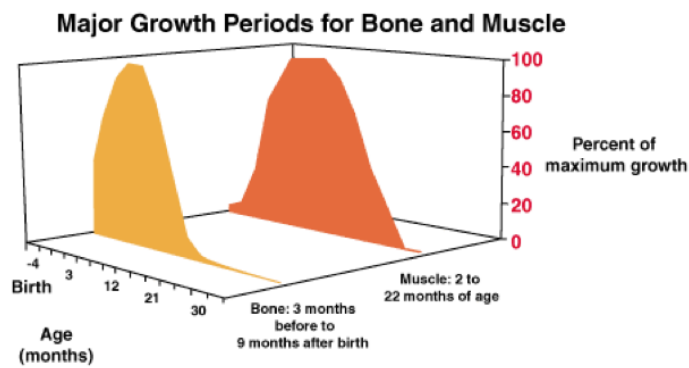
EARLY PREGNANCY

During early pregnancy, the mare has nutritional needs that are comparable to a spelling horse. Pasture alone will not meet the mares requirements so a well formulated concentrate such as Mitavite Breeda or if pastures are

good, Mitavite Promita, should be fed depending on the pasture quality and quantity available.

LATE PREGNANCY

By the 7-8th month of pregnancy the foal has only grown to approximately 17% of its birth weight. In the last 3 months of pregnancy, over 75% of the growth of the foetus occurs and the nutritional demands in protein, macro minerals, micro minerals, energy and vitamins increase as foal can grow as much as 0.4-0.5kg per day. Ideally the pregnant mare should be kept in a moderate condition. The ribs should be covered but easily felt. Overweight and obese mares can have more complications during foaling and produce a lesser volume of milk after foaling. The foal has certain developmental periods of growth. The major periods for bone growth start to occur during the last trimester of pregnancy and it is important that all of the bone building nutrients such as Vitamin K1, Calcium, Phosphorous, Magnesium, Copper, Zinc and Manganese are available for optimal growth.



During the last trimester the appetite of the mare increases which is stimulated by the increased needs of the growing foetus for protein, vitamins, minerals and energy. As the foal grows it is taking up more room in the mare’s abdomen, restricting the digestive capacity of the mare. This coupled with the increased incidence of abdominal rupture and colics during the peri-foaling period increases the need to feed a well digested, steam-extruded, high nutrient dense feed to ensure the mare is obtaining optimal nutrients without overloading her digestive tract.

The mare’s milk is very low in trace minerals such as copper, manganese, zinc, selenium, iodine and iron. It is imperative that during late pregnancy the unborn foal has access to adequate levels of minerals, vitamins and protein so they can be used for bone growth and joint development. These nutrients need to be fed to the late pregnant mare so the foal can store them in his/her liver for use during the first three months of lactation, when the foal only has access to the mares milk.

ONE MONTH BEFORE FOALING

Mares should be taken to the location of foaling and given a booster injection of tetanus toxoid four weeks before foaling. The injection allows the mare to be protected against tetanus, if tearing occurs during foaling, and the foal will receive colostrum that contains a source of antitoxin. By accustoming the mare to her foaling

environment, she produces antibodies to fight the bacteria in the local environment, transferring her immunity in her colostrum to the newborn foal.

PRE-LACTATION

During the last month of pregnancy the mares udder will begin to swell and is given the term ‘bagging up’. Some mares can pre-lactate or ‘run their milk’, depleting precious supplies of colostrum that contain the protective antibodies foals need in their first milk. If the mare has large amounts of white, sticky milk down the sides of her hind legs there may be a need to give the foal a full dose of colostrum at birth. Your equine veterinarian will be able to suggest if this is needed and provide you with colostrum or a concentrated antibody drench.

LACTATION

During lactation the mare literally needs to eat enough for two. She needs to be fed a ration that will meet the protein, mineral and energy demands placed on her and produce enough milk to correctly feed her foal. The total milk yield is determined by the makeup of the mare, her condition and the consumption of energy, protein, nutrients and water during lactation. Therefore, the quality of the ration is paramount during lactation, ensuring it contains well digested energy sources, the best quality protein, amino acids and those all important bone building nutrients in a bioavailable form. Studies on protein levels have revealed a correlation between the quality of the protein and the growth rate of foals and the quantity of milk produced during the lactation. Lactating mares fed a diet low in minerals such as Calcium intensified bone demineralization, affecting the mares wellbeing. Alternatively, over feeding of nutrients to the mare may not flow through to the milk. Research in this area found over feeding of copper, zinc, calcium and phosphorous to the mare did not affect the concentrations of these nutrients in the milk. It is therefore important to get the balance right and minimise wastage by feeding a well profiled concentrate that will provide all the nutrients at the correct levels.

Pregnancy, foaling and lactation are an exciting time for stud managers and owners. Feeding pregnant and lactating mares and young growing horses a well formulated, highly digestible concentrate that contains the right amount of nutrients will ensure both the mare and the young growing horse are receiving premium nutrition to optimize the growth of the young horse and wellbeing and health of the mare.

For more information on feeding breeding mares and young growing horses contact Mitavite on 1800 025 487.





NOW YOUR MARE IS PREGNANT, KEEP HER PREGNANT!

Main photo by Hannah Comrie

Article by Lee Morris BVSc DVSc DipACT, Registered
Specialist Veterinary Reproduction. www.equibreed.co.nz

Despite improvements in conception rates in horses over the years, the live foal rate in both the thoroughbred and standardbred industries is only around 65%. Furthermore, mares that have lost their pregnancies often have difficulty conceiving in the subsequent breeding season. There is an increased awareness in the USA and Australia of the incidence of pregnancy loss due to placentitis (inflammation of the placenta) in mares. Much of this awareness stems from the history of mare reproductive loss syndrome, associated with the ingestion of caterpillars, which both countries

have experienced. However, there are multiple factors which result in the condition of placentitis that are also relevant to New Zealand, some of which include an infectious component, and all of which ultimately result in one or more of the following: - compromised placental function, abortion, premature birth or the birth of a weak foal.

The first sign of placentitis may also present as colic, followed by premature udder development, vaginal discharge and abortion. Pregnancy loss late in gestation is an important source of reproductive wastage in the equine industry and compromised foals may never

achieve their athletic potential.

Placentitis is most commonly caused by bacteria (e.g. *Streptococcus equi* subsp. *zooepidemicus*) from the vagina traversing the cervix and invading the uterus and placenta resulting in an ascending infection. The associated inflammation of the placenta leads to prostaglandin synthesis which stimulates uterine contractions and ultimately results in premature delivery of the foal. Mares are considered at risk if they have predisposing anatomical conditions (eg: poor vulval conformation, damaged cervix), have a history of abortion, are exposed to infectious agents or have poor placental function. (Fig

1.) Examination of the placenta after foaling may provide evidence of the risk factors predisposing to placentitis.

Below: (Fig 1). A scarred placenta near cervical star



Nearly a quarter of all pregnancy loss experienced in mares occurs after 120 days of gestation. During these latter stages of gestation, the placenta is the sole source of progesterone like hormones which maintain the pregnancy state and prevent expulsion of the foetus. Poor placental function will compromise the production of these steroids, and in a clinical setting Altrenogest® is frequently administered when placental compromise is suspected. Indeed, in Kentucky (USA) and Scone (Australia) many mares at high risk of losing their pregnancy are treated with double the dose of Altrenogest® throughout gestation.

Concurrent antibiotic treatment is routinely administered either prophylactically (as a preventative) in high risk mares with a history of pregnancy loss or in active cases of placentitis. Prophylactically, the use of antibiotics will minimise contamination and prevent the ascent of bacteria into the reproductive tract. In these cases, effective antibiotics are chosen for their efficacy against Streptococci and also for their ease of administration, and as such, short courses are often given monthly throughout gestation. In the case of acute placentitis, once infection has crossed the placenta, then antibiotic treatment may be intensified to daily treatments throughout the risk period.

Monitoring the pregnancy and placental changes during gestation is useful to pre-empt any detrimental

changes that may be occurring and to implement treatment as indicated. Long term Altrenogest therapy is expensive and blanket treatment may not be the most cost effective approach. Therefore, in many cases the most cost effective approach is to include a combination of treatment and serial monitoring which evaluates premature udder development, vaginal discharge, placental development, blood samples and foetal activity. These factors have been identified as predictive of pregnancy outcome. In addition, placentitis should also be considered as a differential diagnosis for pregnant mares with colic.

Careful evaluation of the mare's placenta after foaling and the IgG levels in foals from affected mares can also provide useful information for the management of the foals from these problem mares. In the case of an abortion, always ask your vet to send the placenta with the foetus to the lab for investigation. Foals from compromised placentae may also be undersized and malnourished at the time of birth (Fig 2). Their potential for compensatory growth will depend of the degree of placental compromise they endured during gestation.



Above: (Fig 2.) A small foal produced by a compromised placenta.

What can you do to prevent pregnancy loss? Simply increasing our awareness of the incidence of placentitis can improve pregnancy outcome by enabling early intervention when required. Here is a checklist to help you look after your mare during pregnancy

Vaccinate your mare
www.equinevaccineguide.co.nz

Herpes virus abortion vaccine in month 5, 7 and 9 or pregnancy

Tetanus and Strangles vaccine at least one month before foaling

Salmonella vaccine one month prior to foaling

Check your mare's teeth and make sure they are in good condition during pregnancy. A link between dental disease and pregnancy loss has been reported in other species

Ask your vet to help you monitor your mare's blood Selenium levels. Treat with registered Selenium products if indicated and then test the blood again to ensure the Selenium is normal after treatment.

Mares with a history of undersized foals often have poor placental function. Monitor these mares closely.

Check under your mare's tail daily for signs of vaginal discharge. Call your vet if you observe any problems.

Check your mare's udder daily from 150 days of pregnancy and if it starts to develop before the 10th month of gestation, call your vet.

If your mare appears unwell, uncomfortable or gets colic during pregnancy then call your vet immediately as early treatment may save your foal.

Supplements and treatments must be registered as safe during pregnancy and this should be on the label. If it is not stated on the label then it may not have been rigorously tested. Avoid potentially oestrogenic supplements like kelp, red clover, soy, linseed and alfalfa/lucerne.

L-arginine has been shown to improve foal development and blood flow to the reproductive tract – call EquiBreed NZ to find out the latest research in this field.

If in doubt – call your vet!





1.

Canterbury Area Dressage Group Winter Tournament

- 1. Harriet Redmond**
Ngahiwi Frostie.
- 2. Dayle Snowden**
Azariah.
- 3. Emma Coppystone**
Roselea Hearts Desire.
- 4. Karolyn Norton**
Larapinta Primadonna.
- 5. Michelle Soper**
My Kiwi Ana.

Photos: Mel's Moments Photography



4.



5.



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Shifting your hips and leaning on turns? More shifts won't fix the problem. You need to address your leg stability. Leg stability will improve your balance.



GET BALANCED FOR SPRING

Article by Heather Sansom

Recently I had the privilege of visiting a hunter-jumper training farm where they run a school and many shows in the year. As one of the students cantered by, the discussion shifted to the importance of staying balanced on the centre of your horse. The trainer described the rider's compensation as 'motorcycling' the turn. She had shifted her weight and was leaning in to compensate. She was also squeezing with her legs, shutting down the horse's movement. Although riding with your seat out of the saddle is not my personal favourite place to be (my passion is classical dressage), I do get really interested in all the ways that a rider needs to use their body for different disciplines of riding. Seated riders have the same problem: weight shifts, leaning and gripping with legs to compensate. At the end of the day, we are still a human on a horse, and the biomechanical rules don't change because you changed the saddle, leg length, footing, and direction of movement.

The issue is common across riding disciplines. Part of the reason stems from the sitting issues common in our populations. We are not helped by a lifestyle where we sit in cars, sit at computers...you get the picture. The tension and weakness patterns from that lifestyle are a really hot topic across all sports concerned with functional fitness. Riding is one of them. So, how did I jump from weight shifts to legs? In a nutshell, a tight inner leg (adductors) causes the rider to clamp on to the horse. It can be very subtle, and completely unconscious. The location of the clamp changes depending on which parts of your leg and thigh are most in contact with the saddle, based on your discipline.

Riders with seat out of the saddle have contact in the lower gastronomies (calf/Achilles area), and the knee. Dressage riders and other seated riders have contact in the upper thigh, and ideally, the upper calf area if they are applying leg aids. In either position, the ideal is the ability to have a neutral leg, with a body that is positioned by balance, not by clamping onto the horse. Besides shutting down the horse's movement, gripping the horse ruins your feel for balance. It puts you out of balance. So, instead of balancing their way around the turn in alignment with the horse, the rider uses other tools like a seat shift and a lean. If the rider is small and the horse is large, a rider can get away with this pattern for a while until the height of the jump, precision of the movement, horse soreness, or an eagle-eyed coach hold up the Whoa! sign and flag the issue.

The issues are more complex than simply strengthening adductors: they affect the whole muscle and ligament system on the inside and outside of your leg and hips. A mechanically unbalanced leg and thigh system cannot suddenly be fixed by mindfulness exercises, Centered

Riding type work, thinking or breathing into the right part of your body, massage, chiropractic, or yoga on horseback. I respect all those things and their place in helping a rider move, balance, and ride better. I practice several of them. I am a Centered Riding instructor in addition to a nationally certified riding coach. People in other sports don't try and fix problems like this 'in game' (while doing their sport itself) - they go to physiotherapy or a gym. They develop some daily habits to have a mechanically more balanced body, which they then bring to their sport practice. That is classical sport conditioning. Once you're sitting in the saddle, you can't very well start raising your legs out to the side to strengthen the outer line, while you're riding.

To keep it simple, the antidote for this problem is a process of introducing more flexibility on the inside, and more strength on the outside. When I am working with clients, the precise workout plan always depends on the individual I'm working with because everyone has a unique combination of habits, imbalances and riding goals, not to mention body type, workout activity preferences and riding discipline. Nevertheless, I have some standard methods and approaches that I end up recommending right across riding disciplines. One of them involves using exercise tubing or bands to develop lateral strength.



In the picture here, the exercise is demonstrated standing. You can look up lateral work and find many examples of exercises lying on your side. They are good too, but if you are able to balance on one foot, I like to encourage riders to do the standing exercise because it forces you to use

your core and standing leg stabilizers to keep an upright position. You want a band or tube with enough tension that you feel you are pushing against resistance to left your leg to the side, and also having to resist while slowly bringing your leg back to position. If it feels too easy, get a stronger exercise tube or double it up.

Once you can do the exercise simply as shown here, it's time to work more on balance and knee stabilizers. You can do this a few ways. Two that I like are either introducing movement, such as moving between the leg

raise and a squat. If you are reading this article online, there is a YouTube video that I found which has some good technical instruction

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5oewij3YnA0>

Another way you can tackle it is to introduce more bend in your knee with resistance that is stable. To do that, tie the band or tube around your leg near the knee, and off to the side (across your body so that you have to push your leg slightly out to prevent it from being pulled inward). With some tension on the bend, drop into a split lunge (the front leg that is bent, is the one with the resistance tube). You will really need to focus on your hip and knee stabilizers to prevent your leg from wobbling while you do this exercise. There is a very good instructional video here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZKYmwV6Zo5I>

Generally, the right amount of resistance is dictated by what you can handle without finding that you are wobbling, or compensating with weight shifts and leaning, for about 10-15 repetitions of the exercise on each side. If you are a fit person, and the issue discussed this month is still speaking to you, you might be surprised at how little resistance you need for this exercise to challenge you, compared with the weight loads or types of activities you otherwise can do.

Happy riding and training!

Heather has been involved in fitness and competitive sport for over 25 years, and in equestrianism for over 35 years. She is a nationally certified life coach and fitness trainer and internationally and nationally certified equestrian coach. A leader in rider fitness, she has published several books and over 200 columns on fitness and training in national and international equestrian magazines, including *Dressage Today* and *Horse Sport*.

Heather has a range of equestrian experience including hunting, Prince Philip Games, polo, competitive trail, liberty training, and natural horsemanship. Her main discipline is dressage. She has trained to Level 4 and was Provincial champion Level 2 in 2004.

To reach Heather for questions about her books, or getting personalized assessment or coaching online send her email: personaltraining@equifitt.com As always, she loves to hear stories from readers who were inspired or helped, or want to suggest a topic for her to write about.

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Edward Gal &
Glock's Zonic

NETHERLANDS WIN FEI NATIONS CUP DRESSAGE IN FRONT OF HOME CROWD AT ROTTERDAM

Photos by FEI/Arnd Bronkhorst Article by Wendy Hamerton

The scoring for this team competition can be bit of a mystery to the uninitiated with two different formats possible. One format uses the Grand Prix and Special only, the other includes the Freestyle.

Three scores always count from the Grand Prix and the highest placed riders earn points with 1st being awarded 1 point. In Rotterdam two scores then counted from the Special and one from the Freestyle.

The Dutch team comprising of Edward Gal, Madeleine Witte-Vrees, Hans Peter Minderhoud and Emmelie Scholtens, rode away with the Nations Cup title having started strongly in the Grand Prix on the first day to lead with 13 points. Hans Peter Minderhoud and the 10-year-old KWPN stallion Glock's Dream Boy added to the teams score with a second place in the Grand Prix Special (73.83%). Emmelie Scholtens and Apache, were fourth and then Edward Gal on the 10-year-old Danish Warmblood stallion, Glock's Zonik NOP, earned the highest individual placings in the Grand Prix Freestyle, scoring 80.075 percent, to help the team secure gold.

The experienced Swedish team of Tinne Vilhelmson Silfven, Juliette Ramel, Therese Nilshagen and Patrik Kittel, took the silver spot leaving team USA to maintain the bronze position they had established in the Grand Prix on the first day.

The US has a strong contingent of riders in Europe all vying for World Games selection. Steffen Peters and Rosamunde, scored third place in the Grand Prix Freestyle (77.135%) to just edge out team mate Kasey Perry-Glass on Goerklintgaards Dublet (77.06 percent) In the Grand Prix Special, Adrienne Lyle and Salvino, were fifth (71.915%) closely followed by Olivia LaGoy-Weltz and Lonoir (71.213%)

FEI NATIONS CUP RANKINGS AFTER FOUR OF THE SEVEN ROUNDS

Sweden 40
 Netherlands 35
 Denmark 23
 USA 21
 Great Britain 15
 Belgium 12
 France 11
 Germany 9
 Canada 8
 Australia 7
 Finland 7
 Spain 6



Above: Team Netherlands, CHIO Rotterdam Nations Cup Dressage won by the Dutch team, from left to right Hans Peter Minderhoud, Emmelie Scholtens, Madelein Witte-Vrees, Edward Gal. Team chef Rien van der Schaft.

Below: Therese Nilshagen (SWE) - Dante Weltino OLD



CELEBRATIONS FROM THE 2018 DNZ AWARDS DINNER



- 1: Betty Brown accepts the St Georges Trophy from Judy Alderdice on behalf of Jennifer Sim
- 2: Jonathan McNeil (Pryde's EasiFeed) with Young TID scholarship winners. (from L) Alyssa Harrison, Georgia Gibbons, Millie Thompson
- 3: From L; Nicky Hallen awarded All-in-Flex Judge of the Year with Judith Cunningham & Betty Brown
- 4: From L; Retiring Patron Pam Gilmour, Lynda Clark with MC David brougham
- 5: Lorraine Ward-Smith - Winner Pot Black Trophy and Amateur Top Ten League Champion and AllinFlex Amateur
- 6: NI Riders Rep Alicia Zeludko pays tribute to the Dressage NZ national sponsors



1.

1: Lynda Clark with Laura Hayes from Dressage Central Otago rep accepting the Chair's Award for Excellence



2.

2: Betty Brown representing AllinFlex with Amateur Top Ten League Winners from L; Lorraine Ward-Smith, Carole Pointon, Jenny Clarke



3.

3: HorseSports YR Top Ten League winners from L; Millie Thompson, Grace Farrell, Georgia Gibbons, Rilee McMeekin and Grace Purdie



4.

4: Flying Horse Masters Top Ten League from L; Diane Wallace, Debra Cowen (for Maree Lynch), Jenny Clarke, Carole Pointon and Betty Brown

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WHEN NOTHING IS TOO MUCH TROUBLE

Photo by Brian Hobson Article by Wendy Hamerton

This years recipient of the Karmargen Sportsmanship Award Debra Cowen was more than a little surprised to hear her name called - in fact she almost missed it. "You kept that pretty quiet, but what a fabulous surprise. I hope someone will tell me exactly what I did to deserve this!"

Sportmanship can be seen in many forms - a one off spontaneous act or as in the case of this year's winner a long standing commitment to the sport when on many occasions, this commitment has meant not being able to give full attention to their own competition in order the show is better for everyone else. Debra Cowen was spied multi-tasking at the Waikato Champs

We asked Debra how she has become so entrenched in Dressage

HOW DID YOU GET INVOLVED IN DRESSAGE ORIGINALLY?

"Hmmm... good point" she says trying to think back on how and why she became involved originally with Dressage Waikato. "I think Jody Hartstone and Michelle Paterson convinced me to go to a meeting back (around) 2000, if not a bit before. At that stage I had just started doing dressage relatively seriously, after eventing in my teenage years and early 20's. I really got interested in dressage quite early as my mother worked with Barbara Clarke's husband, and I was allowed around there to ride his horse (and then hers' every once and a while).

I went eventing (as you do), with friends, and had a lovely little horse called Evasive Action. He was a lovely mover and I recall Barbara telling me I should do dressage on him. I did a bit of dressage at the time, and recall doing a show at Leamington (run by Dressage Waikato) and getting a few 9's and 10's at Novice level, and that was the incentive to keep going. And I was a bit chicken eventing; did quite well at Training, not so much at Novice....

I sold Sid (Evasive Action) to a young rider in Auckland when I decided to give up eventing, as he really missed his jumping, and I didn't think he would go too far - that was probably a very stupid move in hindsight.

After Sid I brought a very green 10 year old Andalusian - called Ernie (Denarius). He was a flighty bugger, and whilst coming to grips with him

I started using Michelle Paterson's arena. She picked me up off the floor several times each week, shaking her head every time.

He was a lovely horse, and looking back I suspect he may have been very grass and ulcer affected.... I rode him up to around Level 3 with a bit of success (but no consistency), but decided to retire him when I had kids (14 years ago), as it was never going to be safe."

YOUR INVOLVEMENT WITH DRESSAGE WAIKATO - HOW HAS THAT EVOLVED?

Once Michelle and Jody had convinced me to become active in the group, I became Treasurer, and then starting helping with shows. I never wanted to judge, but was happy doing the background stuff that no-one else seemed keen on doing.

I recall being show convenor for the Waikato Group when they ran the NI Championships at St Peters around 2000. Again I was attempting to ride as well as organise, and recall having to send my mother to the office while I was warming up as they were calling me to sort out a problem. At the time, the group didn't have the experienced people in the office we do now, and we didn't have the systems in place we have now, so riding and organising didn't really work. I ended up scratching from the remainder of the show, as it was too hard to manage both at the time, but have now worked out a system where it mostly works.

DO YOU THINK RIDERS NEED TO BE MORE INVOLVED IN THEIR OWN SPORT "OFF HORSE"?

In my opinion, we (the sport) cannot rely on non-riders to provide all the volunteers at shows – riders

need to participate. Even helping out at a Local Show, or assisting with their group's regional event– it is but a few shows in the year, and spreads the workload immensely.

DO YOU THINK IT IS REALLY POSSIBLE TO ORGANISE AND COMPETE AT THE SAME EVENT?

My philosophy on organising and riding is that it should be possible to do both – provided you have systems and experienced people. Having said that, if it doesn't work out there is always another show, and I think that other riders could open their eyes to this, and make way to help. They do not need to possibly jump in and do as much as I do, but if I can do a lot and still ride, they can as well.

On our group show dates, the running of the show takes priority over my riding. If something goes wrong in the organising, I will scratch (or try and move my time) to sort the issue. There are enough shows around that it shouldn't really matter not getting a score at one.

I think the main reason I am so involved is that I want the sport to be better. In order for it to be better, there needs to be well run shows. Shows need to make a profit (or at least break even) and participants (volunteers, sponsors as well as riders) need to feel they get value from attending. This can only be achieved by a dedicated people with the right skills and experience committed to the Sport.

ON RECEIVING THE WINDSOR LAD TROPHY & KARMARGEN \$500 TRAINING GRANT

I still cannot believe I have won the Karmargen Award. People kept that really quiet until the night and it was a truly special surprise.

I know that I do a lot (too much as my husband points out regularly), however I also know that a lot of other people do as well – within Waikato and nationally. I feel that sometimes I am a bit more visible than others at our shows, given I am often the one addressing issues. Little tasks need to be done all the time, and it is good to get out of the office and interact with other people, so I tend to be out and about (with a radio and my phone on) a bit more than some of the others.

I think that I am somewhat unique in that I will make enough plans to (hopefully) ride at the show as well as organise. It is a juggling act, but so is life.

I do rely on people to help, and continue to be extremely grateful to the assistance from friends and family in supporting me to do both on the weekends. Friends will look after my horse, get him ready, put him away and sort stuff out so I can run off and do other tasks. Now that I have (daughter)Zara coming with me to shows (and possibly starting to ride there), there is another aspect to work with, but again – with the help of friends and a supportive Show Committee – we will work it out, and I will juggle a bit more.

I am also on the Committee of the Waikato Equestrian Centre (again thanks to Michelle), and this is a bit of a different challenge as we work towards improving and running a facility, rather than just a few shows. Again, it is more time (thank goodness for lights on the arena), but well worth it for the good of the Sport in the Waikato.

I would like to thank Karen & Peter Trotter very much for sponsoring the Training Grant and I will be proud to have the beautiful trophy at home for a year



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VOLUNTEERING AS A WAY OF LIFE

Photo by Libby Law Article by Celine Filbee

There are not many people that can tick all the boxes for supporting Dressage at a national, regional and local level but Michelle Paterson is every bit that very person. At the recent Dressage NZ awards dinner Michelle was granted the All-In-Flex volunteer of the year award.

Michelle is a judge, has been a member of the DNZ Judges Sub-Committee, an organiser of many shows and an extremely valued committee member of Dressage Waikato. She is also the owner and rider of a large number of horses.

Michelle and her husband Graeme are owners of the specialist flooring business Superior Rubber Surfaces. They pour non slip rubber flooring for all types of equestrian, agricultural and business applications. They are now in their ninth year supporting the national Dressage Super 5 League; they also support local and regional events in the Waikato. But the monetary value invested in our sport pales into insignificance when compared to the time that Michelle and Graeme both spend volunteering in the sport.

Michelle's time spent on the Judges Sub-Committee with Sue Hobson is one that she recalls fondly, she was proactive and engaged and assisted in many projects over that time.

Michelle has decided to step aside from the Dressage Waikato committee this year where her latest and greatest role was show convenor. Her vast knowledge of running shows was greatly valued by the group and they hope they will be able to make those all important guidance phone calls to her in her absence! Michelle has held many roles within the group including been president, treasurer, assistant judges officer (for many years), and is the all round go-to girl for the group.

She is still very involved in the Waikato Equestrian Centre, being treasurer and show convenor there, organising everything from Horse Trials to Dressage practice days, all at no cost the group, and for the betterment of

the Waikato Equestrian Centre. Under her guidance and stewardship, the centre has flourished at both governance and management levels, and is sure to continue developing in the years ahead.

Michelle continues to juggle judging with her show organising commitments, and often is seen running from the show office to her judging car to fill in at the last minute when another judge has suddenly not been able to be there for some reason or other.

After many years of talking about it, Michelle has taken the opportunity to step back in order that she can travel more with Graeme, and spend some time with her grand-daughter. However, knowing her, she will still be involved. It is timely and fitting that Dressage Waikato's nomination was successful and Michelle received the All-In-Flex volunteer of the year award recognising her countless hours of dedication to Dressage.

Sadly Michelle could not join the awards dinner celebrations, so her good friend and Waikato Area delegate Debra Cowen accepted the award on her behalf and had these few words to say from Michelle.

"I would like to thank everyone for their nominations and support. I feel very honoured to receive this award, as many volunteers go above and beyond for our sport. Also family members need to be thanked and acknowledged for allowing us to follow our passion, and donate the amount of hours we do. This season has gone so quickly and I think the older you get the quicker the years fly, so with that in mind I will not hold you up any longer. Again many thanks to everyone, I am disappointed that I could not join you; however I am sure I will catch up with you in the coming season"



DRESSAGE

WHAT'S ON

JULY 2018 | SOUTH ISLAND

29	NEG Day 3 Winter Series	Local
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AUGUST 2018 | SOUTH ISLAND

5	Canterbury Dressage Winter Series Day 3	Local
5	Marlborough Dressage Winter Series Day 4	Training
26	Ashburton Dressage Spring Series	Training
26	NEG Winter Series Day 3	Local
26	SCNO Winter Show	Local

SEPTEMBER 2018 | SOUTH ISLAND

2	Canterbury Dressage Spring Series Day 1	Local
15/16	Nelson Area Dressage Group Eyeopener Tournament	Local
16	Ashburton Dressage Spring Series	Training
16	Day One NLEC Spring Series	Local
22	Marlborough Dressage Summer Series Day 1	Local
22/23	SCNO Dressage Spring Championship Tournament	Premier League
23	Marlborough Dressage Summer Series Day 2	Local
30	NEG Spring Series Day 1	Local

JULY 2018 | NORTH ISLAND

28/29	Dressage Taranaki Winter Event	Local
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AUGUST 2018 | NORTH ISLAND

4/5	WCEG Winter Dressage Series - Final Day	Local
12	Auckland-Manukau Dressage Group	Local
12	Dressage Rotorua Spring Spectacular Series Day 1	Local
12	Horowhenua Dressage Group Ribbon Day	Training
19	Dressage Hawke's Bay Training Day	Training
25/26	Dressage Taranaki Winter Event	Local
26	Woodhill Sands Spring Festival of Dressage	Local

SEPTEMBER 2018 | NORTH ISLAND

2	Gisborne Dressage Training Day	Training
2	Taupo Dressage Group Ribbon Day (TBC)	Training
2	Tauranga Dressage Group Practice Day	Training
2	Waikato Equestrian Centre Spring Dressage Series - Day One	Local
2	Wairarapa Dressage Spring Series Day 1	Local
9	Auckland-Manukau Dressage Group	Local
9	Woodhill Sands Spring Festival of Dressage	Local
16	Dressage Rotorua 2018 Spring Spectacular Series Day 2	Local
16	Wairarapa Dressage Spring Series Day 2	Local
23	Gisborne Dressage Spring Tournament	Local
23	Horowhenua Dressage Group Spring Tournament	Local
29	Dressage Taranaki Spring Fling	Local

NATIONAL DRESSAGE SERIES

Sponsors



PREMIER LEAGUE CALENDAR 18/19

SEPTEMBER 2018	
22/23	SCNO Dressage Spring Championship Tournament
OCTOBER 2018	
20/22	Total Industrial Solutions Dressage Bay Of Plenty Premiership League Show
26/28	NICH & Central Districts Premier League Show
27/28	Marlborough Dressage Premier League Show
NOVEMBER 2018	
3/5	Nelson Area Dressage Group Richmond Roast House Qualifying Tournament
10/11	Dressage Otago Summer Championship
10/11	Dressage Wellington Championships
17/18	Ashburton Dressage Mainland Coachwork Summer Championship
17/18	Gisborne Dressage Championship Show
24/25	Nth Hawke's Bay Dressage Regional Championship
DECEMBER 2018	
1/2	Canterbury Championships
1/2	Southern Hawkes' Bay Dressage Championships
8/9	Dressage Waitemata Regional Championship Show
8/9	Southland Premier League
15/16	Northland Premier League Show
15/16	Taihape Xmas Championships
JANUARY 2019	
12/13	Dressage Taranaki Premier League Event
18/20	Auckland-Manukau Dressage Group Championship
19/20	Wairarapa Dressage Championships
25/27	South Island Festival of Dressage
FEBRUARY 2019	
2/3	Waikato Premier League
13/17	Dressage NZ National Championships
MARCH 2019	
12/17	Horse of the Year
APRIL 2019	
11/14	North Island Future Stars & U25 National Championships

For more details of each event & venue, and contact details go to
www.nzequestrian.org.nz/dressage/competition/calendar





DRESSAGE DIRECTORY

Dressage Area Group Websites and other useful links.

Equestrian Sports NZ/Dressage

www.nzequestrian.org.nz/dressage
www.facebook.com/DressageNZ
www.facebook.com/EquestrianSportsNZ
www.facebook.com/DressageNZU25Championships
www.facebook.com/StableoftheStallions

Dressage Bay of Islands

www.sporty.co.nz/bayofislandsdressagegroup

Dressage Northland

www.sporty.co.nz/dressagenorthland

Dressage Waitemata

www.dressagewaitemata.co.nz

Dressage Warkworth

www.warkworthdressage.webs.com

Dressage Auckland - Manukau

www.amdg.org.nz

Dressage Waikato

www.dressagewaikato.co.nz

Dressage Morrinsville -Te Aroha

www.mtdg.co.nz

Dressage Gisborne

www.gisbornedressage.org.nz

Dressage Bay of Plenty

www.dressagebayofplenty.co.nz

Dressage Eastern Bay of Plenty

www.sportsground.co.nz/ebd

Dressage Rotorua

www.sporty.co.nz/dressagerotorua

Dressage Tauranga

www.dressagetauranga.co.nz

Dressage Taupo

www.sporty.co.nz/taupodressagegroup

Dressage Northern Hawkes Bay

www.sporty.co.nz/dressagenhb

Dressage Central Hawkes Bay

www.sportsground.co.nz/chbdressage

Dressage Southern Hawkes Bay

www.sportsground.co.nz/shbdressage

Dressage Central Districts

www.sportsground.co.nz/dressagecentraldistricts

Dressage Taranaki

www.dressagetaranaki.co.nz

Dressage Wellington

www.dressagewellington.org.nz

Dressage Horowhenua

www.horowhenuadressage.com

Dressage Wairarapa

www.dressagewairarapa.com

Dressage Nelson

www.nelsondressage.webs.com

Dressage Marlborough

www.sporty.co.nz/marlboroughdressage

Dressage Canterbury

www.canterburydressage.co.nz

Dressage Otago

www.dressageotago.webs.com

Dressage Southland

www.dressage-southland.com

National Equestrian Centres

www.nzequestrian.org.nz

Tielcey Park Equestrian Centre

www.tielceypark.co.nz (Manawatu)

North Loburn Equestrian Centre

www.nlec.co.nz (Canterbury)

Northern Equestrian Group

www.freewebs.com/northerneq (Canterbury)

Northgate Lodge

www.northgatelodgeequestrian.com (Northland)



Kimi Knight