

2011 Hawkesbury Dressage Championships

Sponsorship Co-ordinator's report

Well, another Championships run & won and this one, as far as I'm concerned, had some of the best prizes we've ever had donated.

We are extremely lucky that so many of our sponsors have stuck by us for many years. Their logos and links are currently being added to our website and it would be a really great idea if riders could take the time to thank them for their support, they really made this a Championship to remember.

All the Champions at each level received a beautiful woolen rug in the HDC club colours of blue & green and with their sponsors name embroidered on the side. The Reserve Champions at each level won a white dressage saddle cloth with the HDC logo embroidered on the side, courtesy of long time sponsor **Sydney Equestrian Supplies**.

Championship classes were again sponsored by:

Horsezone.com.au (who also provided gift vouchers for *every* place getter!) **Brightons Saddleworld** and **Hawkesbury Equine Veterinary Centre**.

New Championship sponsors this year included:

J&J Stockfeeds, **Galahad Equine Group** and **Sportscamera.com**

The Mess Hall was the hub of the organisation on the day it looked really great with sponsors banners and all prizes & rugs out on display.

NutriRice gave us all the feed prizes that were won across the levels and they had a great display stand (the best they've done so far!) in the BBQ area with expert advice on hand from Karen Tinney & Sue Templeton.

Vicky Clayton from **3 Bags Full** donated the wonderful rug & sheepskin products for the Novice classes. Vicky also brought her brand new traveling shop and set it up just outside the hall. **Free Rein Photography** our official photographers (and also sponsors of the prize of a \$200 gift voucher to the highest scoring HDC member!) had a screen with some of their fabulous photography on continuous play throughout the day, all added to the atmosphere of a great day.

Needs for Steeds donated the lovely sets of white 'B Boots' for winners of the Elementary, Medium & Advanced classes and **Global Entries** again gave us vouchers to use for advertising on their site.

Those wonderful diamante browbands that were 1st prizes across all levels were made for **Hawkesbury Dressage Club** at a *very* special rate by our own Sarah Blake from **Impulse Browbands** (aren't they amazing?!). The club also provided the 3rd prizes of free entries for any of our competitions next year. (Please make sure, if you won one that you contact Justin before entering if you are using Global Entries for your entry).

John Kohnke provided us with prizes of the wonderful **Kohnke's Own** Mag E, Cell Vital and copies of his informative book, Talking Horses.

Leah Jones from **Equissage** gave us apparel packs, gift vouchers and feed bins, **Vivi Lee** (usually knows as the lady who sells the Horze products!) gave us bandages and headcollars, including the wonderful pink, pony length bandages with matching headcollars that were won in the Pony classes.

Glynnis Dickinson (also now a new committee member!) from **Horsen'Around Saddlery** in Mulgoa donated 1st prize of a \$100 gift voucher to the Medium and Prix St George winners.

A fabulous donation came from **Mark Dowling of Centennial Vineyards**, who gave us a case of delightful rose wine from his vineyard which we gave as presents to our judges, plus \$100 towards the purchase of those gorgeous browbands.

The sun was shining for most of the day but, as is traditional for any Hawkesbury Dressage comp, there has to be rain in the equation! Thankfully most riders seemed to get their tests done and horses away before the storm hit, and even then it was only a quick shower or two. But why does it always rain on a Hawkesbury day!!?

As for me, my cunning plan to win the Preliminary Championship was thwarted after I managed to break my foot whilst unloading my potential Champion early in the morning!! (more of that later!!) This resulted in me being carted off by an ambulance (how embarrassing!). But I did get to test out our First Aid services and can confirm first hand that they are really caring & efficient people!

So, not only was our dear President absent (poor Trish is currently suffering with pneumonia) but also the Vice President/Sponsorship co-ordinator was now incapacitated and not much use!

After spending the morning at Fairfield hospital, I returned in time for the first presentation of the day. The mess hall was buzzing with people, most of them smiling, so I figured everything was well under control. Justin Worthy, Sharon Watt, and Kate Williams were superb. Cool, calm and collected, they answered questions, manned the desk and doled out the prizes whilst I sat with my foot up and basked in the attention that injured riders inevitably get from their colleagues who are all in total sympathy have been there and done that at some point in their careers!

First presentations were for the **Brightons Saddleword Preliminary Champion** and our first winner, Laura Summerhayes was absent but only because she was away pencilling for another test, which shows that wonderful 'give back to the sport' attitude that many of our riders have. Thanks Laura! Laura did eventually come to get her rug and was absolutely delighted with her horse HV His Honour's achievement.

A very happy Danielle Leek was there to receive the **Hawkesbury Equine Veterinary Centre Medium Champion** award after a great show with Dasimle Mandela Salude.

Popular winner of the **Sportscamera.com FEI Championship** was Michele Baker who is having a great year with the elegant Coldstream Dante. Reserve was seasoned competitor Sue Hearn riding Remington. After the loss of her great friend, Manhattan, it's lovely to see Sue with two more talented horse coming through. Sue also won the Grand Prix (and one of those fabulous diamante **Impulse Browbands!**) and came 2nd in the Inter II with Duntroon.

Amanda Shoobridge now has the ride on Jenny Rapson's wonderful stallion, Ferrero Rocher and they won the Prix St Georges and the \$100 gift voucher from **Horse'n Around Saddlery**.

If we could give a prize for the most delightful competitor, hot contender would be young Sarah McVicker who rode Apache Dream to 3rd place in the Pony section of the Preliminary. She was so happy to have won a prize (although she had her eye on those browbands and wasn't going to leave until she found out who made them and just how she could get one!) and was so polite and charming to the organisers. A young rider to watch out for in the future!

On that note, it was good to see the pony classes reasonably well attended with 5 ponies in each of the Preliminary, Novice, and Elementary classes. Keep up the good work ponies, the word is spreading! Don't forget, NSW Pony Dressage Championships are coming up in October and Hawkesbury Dressage are one of the sponsors.

The afternoon saw storms come in, but thankfully most riders had managed to get their tests done by then. However this may have sent them all scuttling home before the rain set in and so our last presentation was a little less well attended, despite us getting the scores out by an amazing 4pm! Penny Barrett and Lets Reminisce made the effort to stick around to receive the **Galahad Equine Group Novice Reserve Champion** award. Penny also receives the **Free Rein Photography** voucher for \$200 worth of photos as our top scoring member! **Horsezone.com.au Advanced Reserve Champion**, Kathryn Crofts came all the way from Newcastle and still stayed for the presentation! Kathryn was thrilled with her win with her horse Snapdragon. Winner of the **Horsezone Advanced 5C** and 3rd in the 5B was Anne-Catherine Hudson and the exciting young Regardez Moi gelding,

Reverence F. **The J & J Stockfeeds Elementary Reserve Champion** was one of our regulars all the way from the South Coast, James Collins and the big Wyndemere gelding, Southerly.

As mentioned before, the atmosphere was great. It seems that Hawkesbury Dressage is retaining it's reputation as a friendly club and our competitions seem to be relaxed and generally happy occasions. The standard of horse & rider combinations we saw this weekend was excellent with scores up in the 70's in the Novice and even an 80% awarded by one judge!

Congratulations to all winners and placegetters and many, many thanks to all our sponsors for those great prizes, to the committee who all work so hard to get this show on the road and to all the riders and their teams, especially those who came along to the presentations, for your support of our club.

Our next competition will be our November 'Members Only' and Christmas competition. Hope to see you there!

Sally-Ann Barbera
Vice President/Sponsorship Co-ordinator
HDC Inc