

World Class Start & Potential Newsletter Update

News

Eventing

Laura Collett made eventing history by becoming the youngest ever winner of an international two-star three-day event. Riding Fernhill Six, Laura won the Tweseldown CCI** by a 10-penalty winning margin. Laura has subsequently been selected to represent GB at the Junior European Eventing Championships at Necarne in September.

Abi Walters and Piggy French each took a victory in the CIC** sections at Sansaw Horse Trials, riding Chalcotts Saracen and Chicago II respectively.

Ruth Edge riding Marsh Mayfly finished fourth at the recent Bramham CCI***, with Cressie Clauge Reading also finishing fourth in the U25 CCI*** section.

Piggy French and Paul Barker triumphed for the third year running in winning the Mix 'n' Match Relay at Bramham, an unusual competition involving an event rider completing a short piece of the CCI*** Cross Country Course – up to eight fences – before returning to the Main Arena and handing over the baton to their show jumping partner who completes a show jumping course.

Ruth Edge riding Colour Coordinated took 7th place in the CCI** at Burgie Three Day Event, and Oli Townend took 2nd place in the CCI* riding Roquefort.

At the Start & Potential training day in May, the riders participated in show jump training and course walking with Peter Murphy, dressage test riding. Spillers were on hand to offer practical advice on feeding electrolytes, travelling horses etc, whilst team vet Jenny Hall assessed each horse taking part in the squad session.

Start riders, Francesca Ludlum, Victoria Mitchell and Gemma Tattersall have been short listed for the Young Riders European Eventing team.

Show Jumping

Robert Whitaker continues to cement his relationship with his new ride La Croix, finishing 3rd in the Madrid grand prix. Robert cleared 2.15m to win the puissance riding Finbarr V.

Richard Robinson, who is based in Germany, has gone from strength to strength, and recently finished 4th in the Hamburg Derby, with Ben Maher finishing 9th. Richard also came 3rd in the young horse grand prix.

Emma Shaw riding Crown Rhodonite headed the accumulator at Staffordshire County show.

Potential rider, Vicky Young is now based in Germany with Franke Sloothaak and has also been competing out there.

James Billington and Charlotte Platt were part of a young British team who finished equal 3rd in the Samsung Nations Cup in Poznan, Poland.

All the riders continue with their individual trainers, and have had flatwork sessions with Richard Davison throughout the summer. Hauke Luther will be back towards the end of September.

The following World Class riders are on the squad for Athens going to the Junior and Young Rider Europeans: Will Whitaker, Andrew Mizon, Hannah Paul, James Billington and Charlotte Platt.

Dressage

At the recent squad training session, held at The Unicorn, the focus was on young horses - what to look for in a young horse - training the young horse, and with each rider discussions were held on their individual horses, looking at both their strengths and weaknesses, what they thought of their potential and their training /competition plans for them.

Competition plans were discussed with David Trott with regards to the rider's top horses and plans were outlined for future competitions.

Maria Eilberg, riding Two Sox won the grand prix special at Somerford Park Premier League show. Maria put in a strong performance against tough opposition at Gelderland CDI, The Netherlands. Again riding Two Sox, Maria finished sixth in the kür and scored 64.25% in the grand prix. Maria contested the small tour on Topscore, finishing fifth in the intermediaire I kür.

At Northern Equestrian, Anne-Marie Perry won the elementary and medium qualifiers, riding her young horse Korenbloem Twister.

Riders on the GB Pony European Dressage team have been announced and the following pre-start riders have been selected: Samantha Harrison, Alice Thompson and Keri Bates.

The following Start riders have been chosen for GB Young rider Team at the European Championships in Stadl Paura, Austria Annie Perry with World Classic, Henry Boswell with DHI Faederlite and Joanna James with Cavallino.

Para Dressage

As a result of Selection Trials held at Hartpury, Grade II rider Alex McNamara has been selected to compete at the Hartpury International as an individual. Alex won the grade II qualifier at Patchetts KBIS Para Dressage competition, the pair just having returned from an international in Germany, where they finished best of the British in the grade II competition.

At the one day 'on foot' session at Rodbaston College, this gave an opportunity for the rider's to have a nutrition session along with sports psychology and equitation theory and updates on developments in the Para programme. Vikki Underwood and David Hamer spoke to each rider about their individual goals and targets set at the last review and to get an update on each rider's progress. This was helpful to monitor progress and give suggestions as to ways of achieving what had been set.

Liz Purcell – World Class Nutritionist – Liz gave a presentation on 'The Traveling Athlete', which covered coping with jet lag, different time zones, hot climates and hydration.

Jennie Killilea – World Class Sports Psychologist – Jennie gave a short presentation to support staff and parents on 'The Parental Contributions to the Elite Competition Environment'. This focused on creating the right frame of mind to support their off spring at competitions, particularly when stress and fatigue were starting to take their toll. A lot of useful discussion came out of this session and it was agreed that it would be useful to have more sessions in the future. Jennie worked with the riders on preparation for international competition and the mindset required.

World Class Coach Angela Weiss - Angela gave a presentation on 'Riding Transitions'. This promoted talk and discussion on the importance of transitions in training and their relationship to improving balance and the 'half halt'.

