

World Class Development Programme Newsletter Update – April 2007

World Class Development Eventing Programme

There were two World Class Development Training and Review Days held; one at Weston Lawns that included dressage test riding and training with Nick Burton, show jumping with Pippa Funnell, veterinary and shoeing assessments with Liz Brown and Hayden Price, yard management and competition grooming with Jenny Ellis and rider reviews with Discipline Co-ordinator Sarah Verney and Sport Psychologist Joce Brooks.

The other was held at The Unicorn Trust which included dressage test riding and training with Nick Burton, show jumping with Peter Murphy, veterinary assessments with Liz Brown, yard management and competition grooming with Jenny Ellis and rider reviews with Sarah Verney and Joce Brooks.

Piggy French continues her winning ways, with a win in the AI section aboard What A Performance at Great Witchingham.

Laura Collett, riding Fernhill Sox made her advanced debut by winning the U23 advanced section at Belton and produced the biggest winning margin of the day with a 16 point win.

Ben Hobday won the U21 OI at Weston Park riding No Regrets who earlier this month was 2nd in the U21 OI at Witton Castle.

Cressida Clague Reading, Kitty Boggis, Ruth Edge and Lucy Wiegersma are all Badminton bound. We wish them the best of luck and will report how they get on in next month's update.

Ruth has also excelled in another discipline by winning the Novice Open at the Event Insurance Winter Dressage Championships with her own dressage horse Shadowfax.

In the exciting indoor cross-country championship at The British Open Show Jumping Championships, Amy Young, winner of the Individual Gold Medal at the Young Rider European Championships last year, was best of the British riders taking second place on her own horse, Highville.

World Class Development Show Jumping Programme

William Whitaker continued his excellent form by dominating the BEF Start & Potential U23 Championship at the British Open Show Jumping Championships. William had qualified for the championship by winning the U23 qualifier at the Arena UK Senior Premier show.

William, riding Insul Tech Leonardo 590 won the warm up class that decided the jumping order for the Championship the following day. Seven riders went through to a nail biting jump off, with William winning in a time of 45.10. James Billington was 5th on Lady Des Hayettes.

Eric Van Der Vleuten, the top Dutch rider, judged the Style and Performance award and provided a running commentary for the audience throughout the class. This prize was also won by William Whitaker, whose winning round was smooth, balanced and deceptively fast.

In the puissance class at The British Open, Ben Maher (Eperlan Du Fouquet) shared the honours with Robert Whitaker (Finbarr)

Paul Barker riding Temple Guess What won the international knockout class in a photo-finish with William Funnell.

James Billington, riding Lady Des Hayettes had qualified for the U23 Championships by winning the U23 qualifier at Towerlands Premier show. William qualified for the RIHS B & C Championship by winning the qualifying class on Quartz Adelheid Z.

At the Addington Classic show, William Whitaker claimed a wildcard to ride in the senior classes at The British Open, after winning enough points over the 3-day show.

Ben Maher and Chris Frazer have been competing in Italy on the outdoor Arezzo tour, with Ben winning a 1.50m class on Bob's Diamond and Chris Frazer, riding La Mer, taking the runner-up's spot in another 1.50m class. In Toscana both riders were without wins, but gained good placings throughout the show. Ben was in form in the young horse classes, gaining placings in the seven-year old classes.

Paul Barker has been competing on the Portuguese tour and won the final grand prix on Blue Chip Quinton at the Atlantic Tour 4 competition.

A 2-day squad training session with Bert Romp, a top Dutch International Chef and team trainer, was held at Weston Lawns, where he worked with Paul Barker, Ben Maher and Jackson Reed-Stephenson on an individual basis with 2 or three horses each. The riders benefited from physiotherapy with Andy Thomas and Carys Brunner, and a medical update with Peter Whitehead. Discipline Co-ordinator Tina Goosen and World Class Performance Sports Psychologist Joce Brooks conducted rider reviews.

World Class Development Dressage Programme

Simone Ward and Scaramouche outpaced their rivals and led the Prix St Georges/Intermediaire 1 at Wix Equestrian Centre after riding the Prix St George for 65%.

At the Addington Manor CDI***/P/J/YR, Anne-Marie Perry was the best of the British Young Riders, and finished runner-up in the team test riding Forrest Fire. In the Young Rider Prix St George, Anne-Marie also took second spot on Palermo and third place on Forrest Fire. Other Start riders, Natalie Allen, Lara Griffith and Charlie Hutton achieved good placings throughout the competition, with Lara finishing second in the Young Rider Freestyle.

At the Event Insurance Winter Championships, Lara Griffith and Anne-Marie Perry were 2nd and 3rd respectively in the NAF Prix St. Georges Freestyle.

At Sheepgate Equestrian, Henry Boswell won the elementary class on Urban and both medium opens on Basilio.

World Class Development ParaEquestrian Dressage programme

At the Para winter Championships at Vale View, Natasha Baker riding Waldminor stole the show, winning the Grade I and Grade II championship tests, and the music

Sophie Wells, riding Muzeik won the Grade IV championship test and the music. Sophie has also been competing on the Premier League circuit in young rider and Prix St George classes.

Daniel Manning, who felt Party Time was a little flat in the Grade III championship test, where they came second, concentrated on getting it together for the Grade III music, which they won by point 0.5.