

World Class Development Programme Newsletter Update – June 2007

World Class Development Eventing Programme

Georgie Spence, riding Running Brook II was second in the Under-25 national championship at Bramham. Georgie was one of only two riders to get inside the time on cross-country day, which left them in fourth place, and moved up to second place after the show jumping.

Ruth Edge, riding Two Thyme scored her first CCI**** win at Luhmühlen in Germany, which carried Olympic qualification. Ruth, who had re-routed Two Thyme to Luhmühlen after withdrawing him from Badminton due to the hard ground, lay third after dressage with a score of 36.40, was clear cross-country with 1.6 time penalties that left her in first place overnight with a six point lead over her nearest rival. With four show-jumping faults and two time penalties, Ruth's winning margin was a narrow .40 penalties.

Lucy Wieggersma riding Woodfalls Inigo Jones, was the best British rider in the CCI*** at Ede in Holland. Lucy made a meteoric rise from 48th place after dressage to fifth place on the final day.

Piggy French riding Lemington Lett Dance was runner-up in the CCI** at the inaugural Houghton Hall International Horse Trials. Laura Collett was fifth riding Rayef, she was best of the young riders.

Gemma Tattersall with Springwatch Jackannapes won the Novice equivalent of the North Astor Group Eventer's Grand Prix class.

Ruth, who is also becoming a dressage specialist took three firsts at VLB Dressage at Northallerton. Paper Tiger scored a double win in the elementary and medium qualifiers with scores well in excess of 70%, she then rode Muschamp Impala to victory in the advanced medium 94 qualifier, Ruth now plans to work the latter towards Prix St. Georges.

World Class Development Show Jumping Programme

Ben Maher scored two victories in seven-year-old classes at the three-star CSI in Modena, Italy. He won the speed victory and the grand prix riding Akosie Du Wonderland. Ben also gave his 2005 Hickstead Derby winner, Alfredo an outing in a big tour two-phase class, where they finished sixth, as a warm-up to this year's Derby class, which Ben has targeted all year for Alfredo.

Daniel Nielson won his first senior Area Trial at Herts County riding High Tone Z Daniel had been in terrific form in the under-18 classes but this was the first time he had attempted such a prestigious senior class.

James Billington and William Whitaker were part of the young rider team that won the Nations Cup in Compiègne, France, jumping the vital clear rounds needed to secure the top spot.

World Class Development Dressage Programme

After being sidelined with an injury sustained in the paddock, Strawinsky made an exuberant return to form with a double elementary win at Willerby Hill Farm for Darryl Thickitt, and will now be aimed for small tour classes.

Darryl was also a dual winner at Somerford Park Premier League, taking a PSG and Intermediaire 1 qualifier with Watson 108.

Charlie Hutton (Abira) and Anne-Marie Perry (Forrest Fire) have been chosen as part of the British Team for the 2007 Junior and Young Rider European Championships at Nussloch, Germany, on 10th -15th July

World Class Development Para Equestrian Dressage Programme

After the final selection trials for the World Para Dressage Championships, both Denise Shawns and Felicity Coulthard, who won the grade II class on Rofelaar with 71.67%, were selected as two of the ten individuals to represent Great Britain at the Championships that take place at Hartpury, July 19th – 22nd

Sophie Wells, Natasha Baker and Rory Williams will also be competing as non-medalists in order to gain qualification for the Beijing Paralympic Games in 2008.

Emma Sheardown, Natasha Baker and Felicity Coulthard traveled to Kristiansand in Norway to compete in the CPEDI4*. Riding borrowed horses the girls achieved fantastic results. Emma won all her grade 1a classes, Natasha, riding at Grade II level, was 3rd in the team test, 2nd in the individual and 1st in the kür, while Felicity was placed 5th, 4th and 4th also in the Grade 11 classes. This event was a qualifier for the Beijing Paralympics and with the results that Emma, Natasha and Felicity achieved means that they are now eligible to ride at Beijing in 2008 if they are selected.

A World Class Development Training and Review Day was held at The Unicorn that included dressage test riding and training with Angela Weiss and Eric McKechnie, physiotherapy with Joyce Sherriff and Helen Mathies, sports psychology with Jennie Killiliea, veterinary and farrier assessments with David Rowlands and Andrew Bowyer and rider reviews with Discipline Co-ordinator David Hamer and Sport Psychologist Joce Brooks.