

## **World Class Development Programme Newsletter Update –July 2007**

### **World Class Development Eventing Programme**

Although with the very wet weather, numerous events have been cancelled, World Class Development riders have been in excellent form; Kitty Boggis enjoyed her first big win of the year when taking the spoils on Imperial Master in the advanced intermediate section at Stockland Lovell.

Piggy French was another rider returning to top form after winning the open intermediate section at Tweseldown on Holly Blue Curtis – her first event for seven weeks. Piggy adding nothing to her dressage score of 31, and was one of only two combinations to finish inside the optimum time. Piggy was also in good form in the advanced section at the re-scheduled Aston-le-Walls event, which due to the torrential rain had to be abandoned the previous weekend. Piggy secured a win in advanced section K with her new ride Paris, a horse previously ridden for Canada by Kelli McMullen Temple. They led the dressage with an outstanding score of 21.7 nearly 10 marks better than their nearest rivals, adding just one-time penalty show jumping and although they had a steady cross-country round, still managed to win by five points.

Pre-start riders, Libby Soley and Chloe Kirkpatrick were part of the gold-medal winning team at the Pony European Eventing Championships, with Libby Soley securing individual gold on Noble Springbok.

A World Class Development Training Session was held at The Unicorn over two days that concentrated on dressage riding with Nick Burton, jumping exercises with Yogi Breisner, core strength and conditioning with Carys Brunner from the EIS, veterinary assessments with Jenny Hall and stable management with Jennie Ellis.

Amy Young is one of the three riders in the Good Luck Beijing – 10th Anniversary Cup CCI2\*, taking place in August, in preparation for the 2008 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

This event provides the Beijing Organising Committee for the Olympic Games (BOCOG) with the opportunity to test all their procedures ahead of the Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2008. This is an essential part of the build up for BOCOG but also for the British Equestrian Team.

The event is run as a CCI2\* but is a vital part of preparations for the 3 Olympic disciplines and 1 Paralympic discipline. The British Equestrian Team will be looking to rehearse and finalise a number of training and preparation protocols as well as logistical plans, including preparation before, during and after transportation of the horses.

### **World Class Development Show Jumping Programme**

Paul Barker has been in devastating form over the last few weeks, winning the Buccleuch Estates Grand Prix at the Royal Highland Show, riding Blue Chip Quinton. The pair jumped the only double clear round.

At the Champions of Scotland show, Paul took the top three spots in the Horse & Hound Foxhunter second round, winning the class on Amira, after jumping the sole treble clear. Paul also won the grand prix on Temple Ryefield. Paul also claimed his third ticket to compete in the Horse & Hound Foxhunter final when riding Amadeus into 2<sup>nd</sup> place at the BSJA Area 15 show.

Jackson Reed-Stephenson was beaten by just 0.58 seconds to the Cock o' the North title at the Great Yorkshire show. Jackson riding Crown Rhodonite, a new ride, held off many big names, but couldn't quite manage to lift the title.

Charlotte Platt and William Whitaker were part of the team that won the team gold medal at the Young Rider European Championships, and Daniel Nielson took individual silver in the Junior European Show Jumping Championships, that took place in Auvers, France.

### **World Class Development Dressage Programme**

Darryl Thickitt dominated at Solihull with a hat-trick. He finished on identical 69.6% scores with Watson 108 in the Intermediaire 1 and Rex at Prix St. Georges (PSG) and won the Grand Prix with Donnez Moi with a score of 66.5%.

In the junior team test at Hickstead Premier League, Charlie Hutton riding Abira was third.

Henry Boswell riding V-Max blazed a trail at The Hand with a score of 76.55% in the novice 22, a score that remained unbeaten over three days of competition.

Charlie Hutton (Abira) was part of the GB team that finished sixth at the Junior European Championships and Anne-Marie Perry (Forrest Fire) was part of the Young Rider team.

### **World Class Development Para Equestrian Dressage Programme**

Before the World Para Dressage Championships there was a warm up competition at Hickstead Premier League for the riders selected to represent Great Britain at Hartpury July 19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>.

The two World Class Development riders who were selected, Felicity Coulthard and Denise Shawns both won their respective grades. Felicity Coulthard won the grade II class on Roffelaar with 74.17% and Denise Shawns won the Grade IV on Leander with 71.82%.

Felicity continued her excellent form at the World Para Dressage Championships, taking a bronze medal in the grade II individual freestyle.

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

All three riders were impressive, with Sophie being the best of the British riders in the grade IV freestyle. Rory Williams would have won a silver medal in the Grade 1a freestyle if he had been eligible, and Natasha Baker's score in the Grade II individual would have meant a bronze medal and in the freestyle would have earned her 4<sup>th</sup> place.

Unfortunately for Denise Shawns her horse was slightly off-form in the Grade IV individual and didn't come forward for the freestyle.

At the Millfield FEI Pony, Junior and Young Rider International Para Equestrian Dressage competition, Natalie Povey took the top spot in the grade 1b class. Alex McNamara riding Cappelano and Erin Orford riding Painted Affair were second and third respectively in the grade II section.

The competition was supported by the World Class Development Para Equestrian Dressage Programme to enable young British riders to gain International experience.

Sophie Wells contested the able-bodied junior freestyle and individual competitions at the Dressage at Hickstead competition, where she came fourth and third, and the horse that she rode at the World Para Dressage Championships.