

## World Class Development Newsletter

### August/September

Congratulations to Felicity Coulthard, who shone on her Paralympic debut, by winning a silver medal in the grade II freestyle competition on Roffelaar, just one of many World Class Development riders to excel on the international and national stage this summer.

Ben Maher and Rolette made their Olympic debut in show jumping, performing brilliantly in both the team and individual competitions to qualify in the top 35 riders for the final round of the individual competition. After jumping a brilliant clear round in the first round, Maher was definitely in the hunt for a medal. Unfortunately, in the second round, Rolette started to feel tired and ran out of steam, collecting 20 faults and the pair finished in 20<sup>th</sup> place.

Both riders are testament not only to their own talent, but also the established training pathway that the Development Programme provides, along with the best opportunities to maximise their competitive potential that has seen them progress onto the Olympic and Paralympic Performance Programmes.

Back in the UK, at Burghley Horse Trials, Nicola Wilson recorded her best four-star result when she finished fifth after jumping a super double clear, rising from 31<sup>st</sup> place after dressage.

At the same event, Georgie Spence went home with a lorry full of prizes, it was only her second four-star following completing Badminton earlier this year. Spence not only won the miniature of The Land Rover perpetual challenge trophy for being the highest placed competitor at their first Burghley but also a bespoke riding coat presented by Dege and Skinner for the highest placed rider under the age of 25. She also picked up a new saddle from the Worshipful Company of Saddlers for being the best rider under 25 to complete the cross country nearest the optimum time.

Spence, riding Skylight, was also selected for the Young Rider European Eventing Championships along with fellow World Class Development rider Ben Hobday, riding Upton's Who. The British team won the team gold medal and Hobday clinched the individual bronze medal - congratulations to both riders.

Pre-start event riders, Sienna Myson-Davies and Libby Soley were part of the Junior European Eventing team that triumphed in a pillar to post victory over Ireland, with Myson-Davies and Soley winning individual gold and silver medals respectively.

Laura Collett riding Fernhill Sox lay in 2<sup>nd</sup> position after dressage at Blenheim International Horse Trials before the event was cancelled due to wet weather. The pair re-routed to Deauville where the Eventing World Cup Finals were taking place and they put in an impressive performance to finish 13<sup>th</sup>. After dressage, Laura was in 18<sup>th</sup> position with a score of 52.8, a position they held onto after jumping clear cross-country, and rose five places after they were the only combination to show jump clear.

In the KBIS British Equestrian Para-Equestrian Dressage Championships, a number of Development riders excelled, with two riders winning their respective grades. Emma Kent triumphed in the grade III on Gentle II with a score of 67.2% while Sophie Wells and Touchdown won the grade IV on a score of 71.4%, enough to make them the overall winner of the KBIS British Equestrian Para Equestrian Dressage Championship.

Former Development rider, Rory Williams and Gazel won the grade I class with 65.08%, with Rory's classification recently changed to Grade I, he will be challenging for a place on the Programme in his new grade at this year's selection trials.

In the grade II competition, Erin Orford, riding Nirvana Pure Indulgence narrowly missed out to Performance rider Nicola Tustain by 0.5%.

Development show jumper Hannah Paul finished in second place in the World Cup Qualifier CSI3\*-W in Slovenia. Riding Sirius III, the combination produced one of only two double clear rounds of the competition to finish runner-up to France's Kevin Staut.

## **Other News**

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

Unfortunately, with so many events cancelled during August and September due to the weather conditions, a number of Development riders were not able to run their horses.

Piggy French recorded her best performance in the British Open Championship, held at Gatcombe, finishing fourth on What A Performance. The winner, Ruth Edge, riding Mayhem has recently moved from the Development Programme, onto the Performance Programme, along with Lucy Wiegersma.

French was also in good form at Thirlestane Castle, winning the CIC\*\* riding Chase the Moon.

Chris King, and The Secret Weapon led the dressage at the Blair Castle CCI\*\*\* competition, and eventually finished in third place, with Kitty Boggis and Boondoggle one place behind in fourth.

Gemma Tattersall, riding Nyali Beach left a host of international riders in her wake when she scored an outstanding victory in the Land Rover sponsored CCI\*\* at Gatcombe. After jumping a clear round show jumping, they added only 3.2 times penalties on the cross-country phase to their dressage mark of 46.8.

Amy Young, riding Whitwell Tribunal, finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the OI at Henbury Hall in testing conditions. After producing a lovely dressage test, they got slightly stuck in the mud to have 8 faults in the show jumping, but jumped clear in the cross-country phase.

A number of squad training sessions were held at Westonbirt where the Angela Tucker and Nick Burton focused on dressage training while Murphy looked at show jumping techniques. There were diet and nutritional updates from Liz Purcell, mental preparation and planning with Jennie Killilea and Russell Guire from Equianalysis provided video coverage of all the ridden sessions.

### **World Class Dressage Programme**

Simone Ward, riding Mikado IV, who at the beginning of March looked unlikely to compete again this year, won the Intermediaire I at Frys Premier League competition.

Lisa Hopkins was also in winning form, securing the Grand Prix with Prima Courcheval, who is in his first season at this level.

A fortnight later, Hopkins and Prima Courcheval were again in winning form, when the combination won the Intermediaire II at Manor Farm, with 71 %, the highest score of the day.

Charlie Hutton, riding Belmondo were the day's highest scorers at Summerhouse EC, achieving 69.21% in the advanced medium.

At the Badminton Young Dressage Horse of the Future final, just 0.2 of a mark separated the top two combinations, with Darryl Thickitt, riding Warlocks Charm claiming the top spot.

At the BYRDS under-25 national championships, held at Sheepgate Equestrian, Keri Bates and Donna Parrina won the De Savary Junior Championships, scoring 78% in the freestyle. Keri was also on this year's junior European team in Portugal.

Anne-Marie Perry was just pipped into second place by Carl Hester, riding T Movistar for the Nirvana young horse prix st georges title at Addington. Perry was riding Aristo, a horse that she acquired back in March and led Carl by 2% in the semi-final, but in the evening music final, she said that Aristo felt tired, as he had never done two advanced tests in one day before.

Lara Griffith represented World Class at the London 2012 Handover Party that took place in The Mall. Sport England had requested a rider from the Development Programme to attend and be interviewed by the BBC. Channel 5 also interviewed Lara and her interview was broadcast in their news bulletin on August 24<sup>th</sup>.

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

Natasha Baker, riding Wald Minor won the grade II and grade III team tests at Sparsholt College scoring 70.71% and 71.35% respectively.

Erin Orford, riding Nirvana Pure Indulgence was third in the grade II test scoring 69.29%, while in the grade III team test, Emma Kent, riding Gentle II scored 70.96% to finish second, with Toby Pawson, third with a score of 69.42%.

Natasha Baker, riding Wald Minor, and Erin Orford riding Nirvana, a 16.1 British-bred gelding by Baron B, who, like Wald Minor is a dressage schoolmaster, wowed the crowds at Blenheim International Horse Trials, by performing a Pas de Deux to music. It was the first time that Erin and Natasha had performed the Pas de Deux in public and both combinations coped extremely well with the atmosphere and the testing conditions.

A 2-day squad training session was held at The Unicorn, where the focus was on dressage training with David Hamer and Eric MacKechnie, physiotherapy sessions were held with Joyce Sheriff. The session also included diet and nutritional updates with Liz Purcell, including a food shopping trip to Tesco's, and mental preparation and planning with Jennie Killilea.

Paul Malone & David Rowlands gave a talk on the structure of the routine teeth care and effects on performance. David Rowlands also gave the riders an update on what are prohibited substances and how the FEI rules apply.

Russell Guire from Equianalysis provided video coverage of all the ridden sessions.

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

Paul Barker dominated the area trial at Bakewell, Derbyshire, with three horses through to the jump-off. It was on his new rising star Anderida Anica, who joined Barker in April, that he had the winning round. He continued his run of good form with a joint first in the PCA Grand prix also on Anderida Anica.

Barker also secured a HOYS wildcard qualification at Rowallan with Temple Ryefield, he was sitting in 13<sup>th</sup> place on the BSJA rider rankings list and only the top 10 are automatically invited to HOYS. Barker was uncertain whether he would qualify for and was not able to get clarification until the weekend at Rowallan where they adopted a format allowing riders to accumulate points on their top ride each day. Consistency was the key and Barker secured second spot and the qualification for HOYS.

At the Arena UK Major Show Jumping Championships, Matt Sampson, riding Indy 28 proved an unbeatable combination in the Horse Deals, young rider grand prix, over a tough track with a tight time.

Daniel Neilson, riding his very promising Chauvinist qualified for the HOYS newcomers final by winning at Arena UK.

At the inaugural Chester Masters Meeting, Neilson rode High Tone Z in the 1.40m Chester Invitational competition, after a very smooth first round he took control in the jump off to win the high quality class in impressive fashion.

Under the guidance of Jackson Reed-Stephenson, Sorceress won the AES British-bred five-year old championship class at the prestigious British Young Horse Championships that were held at Addington.