

World Class Development Programme Newsletter Update –August 2007

World Class Development Eventing Programme

Congratulations to Laura Collett, who retained her individual title at the Junior European Eventing Championships in Switzerland, this time riding Rayef, as her intended ride, Fernhill Sox is out of action. Laura rode immaculately throughout the competition to finish on her dressage score of 35.5 and win by just 0.2 penalties, securing her title with a clear round show jumping, just as she did twelve months earlier, and making her the first British rider to retain a European title on two different horses. Laura's score also helped secure the team gold medal.

At the Festival of British Eventing, Georgie Spence scored a one-two in the young rider final trial, which helped secure her team place for the Young Rider European Championships that were held at Blair Castle, where she was part of the gold medal winning team. Ben Hobday, who finished thirteenth in the Young Rider trial at Gatcombe, was also selected to ride as an individual at the Young Rider European Championships, where he finished sixth individually.

In the British Novice Championships, Lucy Wiegiersma added just 0.8 of a cross-country time-penalty on Granntevka Prince to take third place and was runner-up in the CCI*** at Blair Castle, riding Woodfalls Pure Gold

Amy Young, one of the three British riders who rode in the Good Luck Beijing – 10th Anniversary Cup CCI2*, in preparation for the 2008 Olympic and Paralympic Games put in a good all-round performance, with a quick cross-country round to finish in a creditable eighth place.

Ruth Edge, riding Muschamp Impala finished runner-up in the Scottish Open at Thirlestane Castle and Piggy French won the CIC** on Lemington Lets Dance.

Piggy was again in winning form in the CIC** competition at Aston-le-Walls, this time riding Cast Away II.

Emily Baldwin is a new rider who has been included onto the Eventing Development Programme.

World Class Development Show Jumping Programme

Ben Maher hit top form with his new ride Gem of India at Shrewsbury Flower Show after heading the two top classes – the GKN Sankey Area Trial and Kia Motors Grand Prix. Jackson Reed Stephenson was also in good form by winning the £1,000 to the winner Speed class. Jackson was in particularly good form in Dinard in France, where he won the 1.40m two-phase class on Goldex and then rode the Dutch-bred stallion into third place in the small grand prix. Jackson, riding Crown Rhodonite, finished ninth in the Derby.

Paul Barker continues his good run of form by winning the 1.40m Grand Prix at Lowther Country Fair riding Quinton, and was second on Temple Ryefield in the Cumberland Ale snooker class.

Hannah Paul achieved plenty of success at the Valkenswaard Horse Festival in the Netherlands. Riding Lucky, Hannah won the 1.40m speed class on the opening day, and was second in another speed class. Hannah finished the show by producing the best British performance in the grand prix in 14th place in a very hot class.

William Whitaker captured the grand prix at the Weston Lawns Classic in fine style, riding Kerball, a new ride from France.

Matthew Sampson produced a typically determined round to win the Horse & Hound Foxhunter Masters riding Chianti Classico at the BSJA Scope Festival.

Already qualified for the prestigious championship at Horse of the Year Show, Matthew beat Paul Barker riding Amira II.

Pre-Start riders, Matthew Sampson and Daniel Nielson have moved onto the Start Programme.

World Class Development Dressage Programme

Darryl Thickitt was the man to beat at the Northern regional championships at Fry's, winning the Prix St Georges on Rex, with a score of 69%. Riding Urban Hit he won the Novice class with a +76% score that included a mark of 10.

At the Eastern regional championships held at The College, Simone Ward riding Oberon VI took the Bates Intermediaire I with a score of 68.75%. Simone has now qualified for both the Prix St Georges and Inter I at the BD Nationals.

World Class Development Para Equestrian Dressage Programme

The Para riders have been consolidating their training and are preparing for the KBIS Disabled Championships that will take place at Stoneleigh as part of the British Dressage National Championships.