

World Class Development Newsletter

June/July

This year the Programme is celebrating its success by having at least one member on each Olympic and Paralympic Team who have come through the Programme over the past four years, including Sharon Hunt, Ben Maher, Laura Bechtolsheimer, Maria Eilberg and Felicity Coulthard. Development riders are also on the reserve lists and part of the Olympic Ambition Programme that supports riders and athletes from all sports to travel to the Games and experience the environment.

Lucy Wiegiersma was also selected for the GB Eventing team, but sadly had to withdraw, due to an injury to her horse Shaabrak.

Emily Baldwin and Nicola Wilson were part of the all girl squad representing GB at the CHIO Festival in Aachen. Although Nicola was off the pace in 33rd place after the dressage, with a clear round show jumping and the second fastest cross-country round, Nicola finished in seventh place, the highest placed British rider. With Emily finishing in 14th place, this contributed to the 3rd place team result.

Development riders represented GB in the Junior and Young Riders European Show Jumping Championships held in Prague, Czech Republic.

From a starting field of eighteen nations, the GB junior team won the team gold medal. Matthew Sampson, riding Indy 28 proved worthy pathfinders, jumping clear in both rounds. Louise Saywell, riding Cyprianus Z produced a fantastic clear in the first round and was unlucky to finish with just four penalties in the second. A reversal of fortunes for Daniel Neilson riding High Tone Z saw them finish the first round with four penalties and then jumped a superb clear round in the second.

In the Young Rider competition, GB laid equal third after two nail biting rounds, which meant a jump-off with France. The British contingent held their nerve and produced three faultless rounds in the jump off to secure the Bronze medal.

Hannah Paul riding Sirius III lowered a pole in the first round and then went on to jump clear in both the second round and the jump off. William Whitaker riding Sarlino had four penalties in both the first and second rounds and as the three clears from his fellow team

mates had already secured the Bronze medal for Great Britain, William was not required to take part in the jump off.

Three dressage riders from the Dressage Programme represented GB at the Junior & Young Rider European Dressage Championships held in Azeitao, Portugal.

Keri Bates rode Donna Parrina as part of the Junior squad which finished 5th, and Keri was 22nd individually, while Lara Griffith riding Warlock and Charlie Hutton riding Abira were part of the Young Rider squad that finished sixth. Individually, Charlie finished 17th and Lara 18th. Islay Aulty, chef d'equipe said, "The young riders have made a vast improvement on last year. Charlie was on the junior team then and he has moved up to this level fabulously. Charlie, Lara and junior rider Keri are all on the World Class Development Programme and credit must be given to that Programme for advancing these riders who gave the overall strength to the teams."

Other News

World Class Development Eventing Programme

Lucy Wiegersma, riding Simon Porloe, finished second in the CCI* at Tattersalls, Ireland, while in Scotland at Burgie International Horse Trials, Ruth Edge demonstrated the depth of her team of young horse's, by leading from the outset in the CCI* with Paper Tiger by an impressive margin. On the final day, Ruth won with Nick of Thyme, and came fifth and seventh with Kilkee and Paper Tiger respectively. Ruth also won the novice two-day event riding Carnaval Prince II.

At Salperton Park, Ruth was again in outstanding form, producing Two Thyme to head the first of the OI sections with a magnificent dressage score of 15.9, adding only 0.4 cross-country time penalties. Her section contained four previous CCI**** winners and many other top combinations. In the other OI section, Emily Baldwin, riding Drivetime was third.

Chris King, riding The Secret Weapon won the strong AI section beating Clayton Fredericks and Ben along Time and Mary King and Call Again Cavalier. Chris was also in good form at Rolleston, where he won an advanced section riding Top Cat II, while Piggy French, riding Alvescot Prada won one of the intermediate sections.

At Barbury Castle, Chris riding The Secret Weapon, couldn't produce a winning performance as last year in the CIC*** but still finished in fifth place. Ruth Edge, continued her run of good form to win the CIC** riding PC Wilson, again winning from the front.

Two squad training sessions have been held, one at the Unicorn Trust and Westonbirt where the focus was on dressage training with Angela Tucker and Nick Burton, show

jumping techniques with Peter Murphy and cross-country riding with Jeanette Brakewell. Support services included, dietician and nutritional updates with Liz Purcell, rider strength and conditioning with Carys Jackson, physio issues with Andy Thomas and veterinary issues with Jenny Hall. Russell Guire from Equianalysis provided video coverage of all the ridden sessions.

World Class Dressage Programme

Charlie Hutton, riding Merlin Nemorensis headed the advanced medium with over 70% at Addington Manor, while at The College, Lisa Hopkins enjoyed a hat trick of wins, taking the medium and advanced medium with a new ride, Walkman BC and the PSG on Likeur II. Sarah Millis scored 70.91% in the advanced medium at Merrist Wood riding Fideramber, who due to being only eight years old, Sarah has taken him down a notch from small tour.

Henry Boswell recorded his first win at grand prix level, with Marque, a 15 year-old stallion that was bought just over a month ago through Chirstian Heinrich. Having already secured an intermediaire I qualification for the nationals, this combination is also hoping to qualify at grand prix level.

Darryl Thickitt's two last minute entries at Willerby Hill provided a winning bonus, as Urban Hit and Stravinsky, who are being prepared for the summer regionals, won both the medium and advanced winter qualifiers.

World Class Para-Equestrian Dressage Programme

At Millfield CPDIJ/YR competition, Erin Orford swept the board in the Grade II class, with overall scores of 71.60% and 71.08% riding both her 'Nirvana' horses, Nirvana Pure Indulgence and Nirvana Moon Dancer.

Tony Pawson riding Oyster III and competing H/C, topped the Grade III classes, where his individual score was over 70% and in the freestyle topped 75%.

Emma Kent and Natasha Baker won their individual para-grade tests at Vale View Equestrian Centre. Emma riding Gentle II won the grade III class with 68.65%, while Natasha, riding Wald Minor, won the grade II class and has also qualified Wald Minor for the able-bodied regionals at elementary level, a competition that Natasha is looking forward to, as she will be able to pit her skills against the able-bodied riders, without being under any pressure.

A number of Development riders were riding at the Hartpury Festival of Dressage, in the International Para Dressage classes, which comprised of Team, Individual and Freestyle tests.

In the Grade 1b competition, Natalie Povey came second in both the team and individual tests with scores of 67.25% and 68.09% respectively and fourth in the freestyle with 66.66%.

Emma Sheardown, riding her new horse Purdy's Dream, came fourth in all three tests in the Grade 1a competition, scoring with 66.07%, in the team test, 64.33% in the individual and 67.22% in the freestyle.

The Grade II competition was a battle for the top spot between Natasha Baker and Erin Orford. In the team test Natasha just edged out Erin with 68.73%, with Erin scoring 67.61% on both Nirvana Pure Indulgence and Moon Dancer, who had better collective marks, so he pipped his stable mate into second place. In the individual the tables were turned, with Erin winning this class riding Moon Dancer with 68.93%, Natasha second with 68.33% and Erin third riding Pure Indulgence with 67.42%. Alex MacNamara riding Cappelona was fourth with 66.21%, who in the individual competition, turned the tables on the two girls, winning with a score of 73.05%, with Natasha second with 71.75% and Erin third on Moon Dancer with 71.01%.

In the Grade III competition Emma Kent, riding Gentle III made it a hat trick of wins in all three classes. In the team test her score was 68.97%, the individual 66.80% and in the freestyle, 73.88%.

Toby Pawson was her nearest rival with scores of 64.15% in the team test, which left him in third place, in the individual 64.13% for second place and in the freestyle, third place with a score 69.63%. Daniel Manning riding John Baptist was fourth with 68.88%.

The Grade IV classes belonged to Denise Shawns and Sophie Wells. Denise, riding Leander, won the team test scoring 69.64%, with Sophie, riding Touchdown II second with 67.73%. The tables were turned in the individual competition with Sophie winning on 70.21%, and Denise second, with 67.52%. In the freestyle, Denise showed her superiority by winning with a score of 75.07% with Sophie having to settle for second place with 74.09%.

Sophie, Natasha and Emma were part of Team GBR that won the Team Championship very convincingly.

World Class Development Show Jumping Programme

A number of Development riders have been competing abroad - Charlotte Platt was part of the GB team that stormed to victory in the Nations Cup in Lisbon, Portugal. Charlotte, riding Lacanda finished the first round with just four penalties and went on to jump clear in the second, posting the lowest score for the GB team.

Meanwhile, Ben was selected to represent Great Britain in the third round of the 2008 Samsung Super League with FEI Series that was held in St Gallen, Switzerland. Great Britain finished in fifth place, just behind the USA. Ben was also part of the British team that finished fourth in the Rotterdam's leg of the Super League series.

Matt Sampson scored a win at La Courneuve, Paris. Matt, riding Indy 28, won the 1.40m two-phase, and also collected fourth in a two-phase class on Chianti Classico.

At the Antwerp CSI****, William Whitaker collected a series of seconds. With the inexperienced Sarlino he took the runner-up spot in the small 1.45m grand prix. Half a second pushed William and Leonardo into second place in a two-phase, and he also picked up useful placings on a new ride, Loops De Batilly.

At the Napoli CSI****, William scored handsomely with Carnaval Path, winning a hotly contested 1.40m jump off class, and again picked up some placings throughout the show with Loops De Batilly.

German based Richard Robinson claimed a win with Carlucci 12 in a 1.45m two-phase class at the Copenhagen CSIO****.

Matt Sampson, Daniel Neilson and Louise Saywell were part of the junior Nations Cup team that just missed out on victory at Reims CSIOY/J, France.

In the Hickstead Derby, William Whitaker made his debut riding Insul Tech Leonardo and Animation II, who put for a rail down at the last fence, would have gone into the lead, this left both horses sharing third place with four other riders.

At the Royal Highland Show, home ground for Jemma Kirk, who took both first and second spots in the Beatson Builders young masters with Tosca and My Miss Saigon.

A number of riders attended a review day that included sports psychology with Jennie Killilea, strength and conditioning with Carys Jackson, PR & Marketing with Rebecca Rawson and six-monthly reviews with Tine Goosen and Joce Brooks.

