

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

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

Piggy French capped a very successful season by winning the prestigious World Breeding Championships at Le Lion d'Angers riding Castaway II.

They led the dressage with a score of 39.80, were clear cross-country that still left her in first place overnight, albeit with a very narrow .40 penalty lead over her nearest rival, with a clear round show jumping, Piggy's eventual winning margin was .60 penalties.

Le Lion is the World Championship for young horses and the last British horse to win the 7 year-old Championship was Primmores Pride, ridden by Pippa Funnell. This combination went on to win Team Silver and Individual Bronze medals at the 2004 Athens Olympics, and Primmores Pride won both Kentucky and Burghley Three Day Events, helping Pippa to win the Rolex Grand Slam.

Lucy Wieggersma, riding Granntevka Prince, also put up an excellent performance to finish in tenth place.

Before heading off to Le Lion d'Angers, Piggy was in action at Weston Park Three Day Event, and won the CCI\*\* with Lemington Lets Dance – this was her third win in three years at this event - again Piggy led the competition from start to finish.

Two pre-start riders won their classes at Weston Park -Sienna Myson-Davies won the KBIS JRN Championships riding Tambourine, finishing on her dressage score of 30.4 and Libby Soley, riding her Pony European Champion, Noble Springbok won the CCI\*

At the PAVO BE British Breeding Championships, held at Tweseldown, Ruth Edge captured the 4 year-old title riding Elite Opposition who finished on a record-breaking dressage score of 14.

Ruth's own dressage horse Shadowfax has recently been selected join the World Class Dressage Equine Pathway Programme, which was launched by the British Equestrian Federation last year to identify and develop horses with potential to win medals for Britain.

Gemma Tattersall traveled to Germany to compete in the CCI\*\* at Kreuth, where she finished 8<sup>th</sup> on a new ride, Nyali Beach.

Emily Baldwin, riding Drivetime finished in 15<sup>th</sup> place in the inaugural CCI\*\*\*\* at Pau. Emily had a dressage score of 54.2, jumped clear cross-country, although incurring time penalties, and jumped a clear round show jumping.

Three World Class Development riders finished in the top ten of the Invesco Perpetual BE Premier League series – Lucy Wieggersma was 4<sup>th</sup>, Chris King in 7<sup>th</sup> place and Ruth Edge in 9<sup>th</sup> place.

There have been two squad-training sessions, which focused on dressage training with Nick Burton and Angela Tucker, show jumping with Peter Murphy, veterinary assessments with Team Vet, Jenny Hall, physiotherapy sessions with Andy Thomas and Performance Lifestyle advice from Carys Brunner of the EIS.

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

At the Horse of the Year Show, Ben Maher won the Ann Martin Memorial class, riding Gem of India, a horse Ben has recently acquired the ride on and was 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Woof Wear Stakes riding Pablo V. In the Horse and Hound Foxhunter Final, Paul Barker who had 3 horses qualified for the final, finally finished in 3<sup>rd</sup> place riding Amira II

German based, Richard Robinson was in the money on three occasions at Germany's prestigious Bremen Classics. Richard started his show with an 8<sup>th</sup> place on Carlucci in a 1.40m class, and then rode Olli-Pop to a double clear and sixth place in the 1.55m Bremen Championships. Carlucci was also foot-perfect in a 1.50m jump-off class, but Richard missed out on the jump-off for the grand prix.

Charlotte Platt's decision to give HOYS a miss and travel to the CSI in Saint Lo, France paid off where she was placed in two major classes.

A fence down on Lacanda kept Charlotte out of the grand prix jump-off, but their time was still good enough to ninth place, and Charlotte was also ninth in the small grand prix on Paulien, who lowered a pole in the jump-off.

Hannah Paul was also competing in France, but at the CSI in Dunkerque, where she put up a terrific performance to take third place in the grand prix riding Sirius II, a horse that she has produced from novice. Hannah won the speed class on her long-term partner Lucky, and rode Saffier Van De Brandkeek into second and third places in big classes.

A squad training session was held at Richard Davison's, which focused on flat work training and at Solihull Riding Club, the squad training session focused on show jump training with Dutch trainer Bert Romp

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

After the National Championships, International dressage judge, Wim Ernes was invited to conduct two-day clinic with the Programme riders. Wim, who is a highly respected judge, was one of the judges at the European Championships this year where the GBR Senior team finished fifth and therefore qualified for the Olympics.

There was a structured format to the two days, on the first day each rider rode a test and immediately afterwards Wim gave his opinion and marks for individual movement whilst the rider was able to review the test on a projector screen. Discussion was held with the other riders, World Class Coaches and Performance Manager as to the strengths and weaknesses of the performance and how these could be maximised. The riders then had the opportunity to repeat the movements under Wim's instruction.

In the evening the focus was freestyles - the floor plans and musical interpretation. Riders were split into groups and had to mark the freestyles they were shown from a bank of footage now held on DVD as if they were judging them.

The following day everyone rode their own freestyle test and once again Wim gave his view on marks and, in particular, the floor plans and music. Several of the riders decided that there would be some major changes in their floor plans after this! One of the riders benefited in having a completely new pattern written for him as he was moving up a level.

This was the second time that Wim had worked with members of the Programme and this was reflected in the improvement of their performances in his own words "Patience is required but I am sure we will see the benefits in the future".

Becky Moody was in fine form at Vale View winning four out of four classes. Becky won both the advanced medium qualifier and advanced 100 with Wallenstein who was making his debut at both levels and won both Novice 21 and 30 classes with Fursten.

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

Several of the riders traveled to Belgium to compete in the FEI Para Equestrian CPEDI at Moorsele where they were competing in the Team, Individual and Freestyle tests.

In the Team tests Grade 1a rider Emma Sheardown finished 2<sup>nd</sup> riding Slightly Welton with 68.94%. In Grade II, Erin Orford was 1<sup>st</sup> riding Nirvana with 69.23% and Felicity Coulthard was 2<sup>nd</sup> with 68.19% riding Rolfelaar. In Grade III, Daniel Manning riding John Baptist was 7<sup>th</sup> with 64.46% and Emma Kent with Gentle II finished 9<sup>th</sup> with 63.30%

In the Individual tests, Emma Sheardown was 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Grade 1a with 66.40%, Felicity Coulthard won with 68.81% and Erin Orford was 2<sup>nd</sup> with 68.09%. In Grade III, Daniel Manning was 10<sup>th</sup> with 62.64% and Emma Kent was 14<sup>th</sup> with 59.36%.

In the Freestyle tests, Emma Sheardown was 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Grade 1a with 70.55%, Erin Orford won Grade II with 72.61% with Felicity Coulthard 2<sup>nd</sup> with 72.11% and in the Grade III, Daniel Manning was 7<sup>th</sup> with 67.39% and Emma Kent was 10<sup>th</sup> with 65.72%.

An on foot squad training session was held at Rodbaston College, which focused on vet Paul Malone discussing Hydration in horses for travel and performance and the correct use of electrolytes, Sports Nutrition with Liz Purcell and Performance Updates with squad trainers, Angela Weiss and Nina Venables.