

World Class Start & Potential Newsletter Update

News

Eventing

Lucy Wiegiersma is the new National champion, courtesy of being the top-placed Brit in the British Open Championship at Gatcombe. Ruth Edge, who won the title in 2004 finished third. Nick Gauntlett riding Bubbling Brook was third in the Novice Championship.

Cressie Clague Reading won the CCI* at the Hartpury Three Day event riding Cesari and was also third on Redoubtable III.

Earlier in the month Cressie was second in the Hickstead Eventing Grand Prix riding Huzar, after being the long-time leader.

Ruth won the OI section at Houston horse trials, riding Digby's Choice with an exceptional dressage score of 27.6. Ruth is the new Scottish Open Champion after winning the CIC*** at Thirlestane Castle, riding Marsh Mayfly, with Lucy Wiegiersma taking 2nd place aboard Shaabrak, who also won an Intermediate section and was third in the CIC** class.

In the CIC** class Piggy French was 2nd in the CIC ** and won the OI section.

Show Jumping

Paul Baker won the GP in Hungary on Quinton, and he jumped double clear on the Nation's Cup, where the team was 5th and again in Bratislava, where the team won the Nation's Cup, he also won the Salesbury Hall Grand Prix riding Blue Chip Quinton at Royal Lancashire, with Ben Maher and Alfredo won the six-bar, jumping the sole clear with fences standing up to 1.80m.

Robert Whitaker riding Karina won the second most valuable class at San Patrignano's CSI***** and also achieved some good placings on Lacroix, who Robert rode into fourth place in the small grand prix at La Coruna CSI.

Vicky Young was 5th in the GP at Chernyakhovsk CSI4*, and had many other placings throughout the show.

Dressage

Spencer Wilton and Dolendo made their senior team debut in the CDIO at Hickstead, where for an error of course would have scored 70%. In the Prix St George, Maria Eilberg was second on Topscore, who won the CDI grand prix riding Two Sox at Fry's, having hotfooted from Hickstead.

Ruth Edge turned her attentions to dressage, winning the Derby House Prix St George at the Scottish regional championship, riding Shining Pupil, and aboard her other ride, Paper Tiger IV, won the open novice with a score of 71.6%, the highest percentage of the weekend.

In the Junior and Young Rider European Championships in Austrian, Anne Marie Perry riding World Classic achieved Britain's top mark of 66.17% in the young rider team test.

Para Dressage

At the Hartpury CPDI, Alex MacNamara was the only rider from the programme selected to compete at this competition as an individual and was well placed in all three classes finishing 4th in the Derby test with 70.10%, 5th in the Championship test with 69% and 3rd in the Kur with 74.5%. As the youngest rider competing, this was overall an excellent result. He had a much more mature attitude and coped with the competition pressure well.

The following week the first F.E.I Junior International was held at Millfield School. All riders on the programme that were eligible competed with entries from Norway, Australia, Poland, Switzerland and France. Daniel Manning was the overall Junior winner with 77%, Sophie Wells was the Young Rider winner with 77.5%. Sophie was the winner of the overall competition with Daniel second. Two of the Judges that had judged the previous year commented that they were very impressed at the improvement in standard of the Start & Potential riders from the previous year.

At a recent squad training session, held at The Unicorn Centre, riders participated in training sessions with coaches Angela Weiss and Nina Venables. All the riders benefited from a physiotherapy session with Joyce Sherriff, and David Dyer from Frogpool Manor offered advice on saddle fitting.

The Unicorn was also the venue for a 'retirement' party that was held for Liz Stone who recently took the decision to retire from top level Para Dressage and leave the World Class Plan. Liz has been an integral member of the World Class Potential Programme for three years now and has not only produced some excellent results, at both National and International level, but has also been a valued and respected member of the programme. Liz's official leaving date was the 21st August, which was particularly poignant as was 10 years to the day since she won a Gold and Silver Medal for GB at the Atlanta Paralympic Games.

