

## SEPTEMBER 2016 NEWSLETTER

*"No matter how you feel, get up, dress up, show up and NEVER GIVE UP"*

I am starting off with a lovely photo of Clem Kelly, Philippa Poulsen, and several members of the JSC. Early in August we all went to Noosa and took Clem out to a belated birthday lunch. It was so good to see both she and Philippa again. Philippa retired from judging from 1/1/13 and Clem is going to retire at the end of this year. These two ladies spent many, many years as Judges and were/are some of the stalwarts of our sport.



The State Championships have been run and won, and as a result we have three new Judges.

**Congratulations** to the following judges who have upgraded:

- **Nicky Greenaway** who is now F level
- **Margot Warnet** who is now E level
- **Judy Herschell** who is now E level
- **Keith Smith** who is now C level
- **Liz Gatti** who is C level

Thank you to those Judges who conducted exams, did shadow judging or sit-ins. Your efforts are greatly appreciated.

**New G level Judge** – **Gillian Leigh** from Maleny is now an G level Judge – Congratulations Gillian. Gillian can be contacted on [Gillian@halfmoonhideaway.com](mailto:Gillian@halfmoonhideaway.com)

**New email address** – **Kay Paulsen** has a new email address [prarg81@bigpond.com.au](mailto:prarg81@bigpond.com.au)

### **Interpretation of Rule 1.3.1 – Unable to Fulfil the Requirement of the Test**

Any elimination of a combination using this rule must occur whilst the combination is competing in the arena. It is about horse welfare mostly and the judges need to make the decision during the test.

### **Clothing – Clarification**



White breeches with a “black” seat are permitted. They do not incur elimination or a penalty.

**Seminar/Workshop Certificates** – if anyone who has attended a seminar or workshop and has not received their attendance certificate please let Liz Coe know [coeliz@iinet.net.au](mailto:coeliz@iinet.net.au)

**Judge Educators/Mentors and Judges Workshop** – another plug for these Workshops. They will both take place on **Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November**. The Judge Educators/Mentors Workshop will be held in the morning from 8am to 12noon, followed by the “End of Year” Judges Lunch and Workshop, from 12noon to 4pm. Please come and join the fun. All enquiries to Liz Coe [coeliz@iinet.net.au](mailto:coeliz@iinet.net.au)

**Writer of the Year** – please don’t forget this inaugural award. The nomination form can be found on the EQ website. Forms to be returned to Judy Sheldrake [jsheldra@bigpond.net.au](mailto:jsheldra@bigpond.net.au) I must admit I have several names on my form – just waiting until after the main competition year finishes before I send them in.

**JUDGES BOX** – Not all horses have fantastic movement (in fact some are fairly ordinary) but that doesn’t mean that when something is performed really well they should not be rewarded. One movement that comes to mind is the halt and rein back. I recently saw a horse come into the halt in a rounded balanced way (there was a tiny moment of unbalance in the last step to halt), stand perfectly square, and then produce four very clear straight diagonal steps back, with no visible aids from the rider and staying in a rounded balanced frame, and then immediately walk out, still with no resistance or loss of balance. My thought was an 8 – in actual fact the horse received a 5.5 and a 6. The comments being the loss of balance into the halt (it was miniscule!) This was very unfair in my opinion. The horse was not a fantastic mover but he performed that movement really well and should have been rewarded for it. Something to think about.....

**Judge Profile – Andrew Stevens** – Andrew is a new G level Judge who has gained a wealth of horse experience and knowledge to date in his life. He is a very welcome addition to the Judges list.

I learned to ride as a child, and joined Moggill Pony Club in the mid-seventies. I was lucky to have horsey parents, and was always around horses growing up. My father is a good horseman, who taught me a lot about breeding, handling and backing our youngsters. He crossed some Australian Stockhorse mares with the newly imported Quarter Horse stallions from the USA, and bred some lovely, quiet (forgiving) horses – ideal for teaching beginner kids everything from shoeing to breaking in, and we did it all. So I have been involved in breeding for about 50 years. I went eventing, encouraged by Paul and Harry Le Bherz, and even completed a 3DE on my little 15 hand quarter horse – albeit with plenty of time faults. In 1981 I did a clinic with Captain Mark Phillips and Andrew Hoy, which was fun, but I was never going to be a good jump rider.

In the late-seventies FEI judge Nick Williams was out from the UK judging the Qld Dressage Champs at Brookfield Showgrounds. One evening he gave a talk about the dressage principles, and showed some black and white 8mm movies. There were German Grand Prix horses (maybe Liselott Linsenhoff), but it was a film of Mrs V.D.S Williams riding Little Model at advanced, that influenced me the most. I had never seen a horse here work like that, and I was hooked.

In the eighties I had a few lessons from Wendy Cooper and Irene B-N (who came up from Sydney to give clinics), while I was spending seven years at university getting degrees in Design Studies and Law. I competed in hack classes, and didn't know the first thing about training a dressage horse. Irene probably despaired of me, but she remained patient and encouraging, and we had fun.

In 1988 I went to the UK to train with Jennie Loriston-Clarke. It was pre-email, and I had no contacts in Europe. I wrote Jennie a letter asking if I could work for her in return for some lessons. She wrote back that she would be in the Hunter Valley that summer giving a clinic organised by Rozzie Ryan, and "maybe I could drive over for a chat". So I did. I think she said I could come and train with her in England when she realised I had flown to Sydney, hired a car and driven out to Lochinvar. It was a great time to be working (albeit not paid) for Jennie, as she was qualifying for the Seoul Olympics with Dutch Gold, and I went to lots of comps as her groom. Carl Hester was in the YR classes, riding for Dr B. and was looking very good already. Jennie stuck me on the lunge with no stirrups until I could sit. She was a strict task master and I learned a lot, especially about stallion management – there were 8 at stud, and I handled them covering the mares. One of the horses I "did" was the beautiful TB stallion 'Sanbal', belonging to the Queen. I competed 'Wellingtonia' at Medium-Advanced. She had previously won a medal at the European junior eventing champs with Anne L-C, but napped and none of the other students wanted to ride her. Paul Fielder was helping Jennie at that time, and I got a lot of help from him - and the retired Dutch Courage was a pretty impressive schoolmaster to learn on. The day I rode tempi changes for the first time apparently my smile could have been seen from Australia. Paul got me a (paid) job in Denmark working as a rider for Hasse Hoffmann, who trained Mistral Hojris and sold him to Laura B. I spent six happy months in Denmark, being trained by Hans-Joergen Norgaard and Finn Greve. I qualified a 4 year old stallion for the Danish National YH Champs at Herning. Young Horse classes hadn't started here at that stage. I continue to enjoy producing young dressage horses.

Returning to Australia I practised law for a few years, but it wasn't my thing. I met my German wife Steffi when riding youngsters at the Northern Warmblood Stud. We have lived in South East Queensland since 1995, where we breed and train as 'Courtland Performance Horses'. Steffi competes our horses and coaches. We enjoy breeding a few foals, and I work in the city in Industrial Relations.

Andrew

I will let the following article speak for itself – very few Judges have the privilege and honour of judging at such important events, but the sentiments expressed in the following article are relevant to us all.

French I-judge Isabelle Judet was the head of the ground jury for the Grand Prix Special at the 2013 European Dressage Championships in Herning. As part of the panel of seven judges, Judet was in the line of fire determining gold, silver and bronze throughout the show weekend. Read her impressions of Herning in the following edited guest column, which appeared first on her own website [Pamfou Dressage](#).

### **The 2013 European Dressage Championships Backstage**

The pressure has dropped down and now it's time to relax and think of what has happened. It seems that what remains after the memorable days we've spent in Herning - which have already been deeply analysed - is the great feeling of having been part of a unique adventure.

Judges are only rarely thanked or congratulated for their work. However, they are commonly criticized or condemned for whatever weakness they might have had or, worse, for any step out of the way they might have taken in their judgement. No one ever attempts to describe or explain how we, judges, experience those long hours of competition. To shed some light on this aspect of dressage, I would like to invite readers into my head when I judge a test, from start to finish at such a championship. I would like to share with you my impressions and state of mind as a judge. First of all, I must admit I am part of those people who do not feel anxious before such an event, neither the days nor the couple of hours before the show. Only concentration grows progressively. Of course, the fact of having as many years of experience as I have certainly explained my inside peace before I start to judge. Obviously, I did not feel quite as calm and relaxed when I judged my very first CDIs!

Another reason why I feel secure is the fact that I know I am part of a skilful group of judges. My colleagues, chosen to judge events such as the European Championships, are selected because they are very competent and experienced. This group solidarity implies that we judges can rely on one another; no fear of unexplainable distortions in our final result. Of course, we might all have, at some point, a short decline of attention that might cause some differences amongst our points, but there are very few chances for us to have radically opposed points of views on a technical matter.

The score of the first horse on the very first day is always expected with a tiny bit of anxiety. Like at each single show, judges must first of all get back into the atmosphere and then make sure the group spirit is consistent. This year, most of us had judged together in Rotterdam or Aachen. We had already created that special bond which is needed for a team to work well together.

In Herning, as soon as the first results came out we were glad to notice that a perfect homogeneity appeared in our scores on the large screen. Everything went alright, we could be confident! There were 65 combinations at this European Championships; the first half on Wednesday and the second half on Tuesday. I had two English speaking Danish judges assisting me as paper and computer scribes. They were friendly, skilful and unobtrusive which really helped judging in the very best conditions.

I will now explain how I judge personally. I am totally focused, my eyes totally set on the combinations in the ring. My judging is completely automatic as my analysis and choice of marks are instinctive. I am not thinking, but I am 100% concentrated on the test going on. Marks just come out of my mouth without any calculation or hesitation. Rarely changed, they seem obvious. Collective marks do ask for a quick review of the test. At this stage I am more fully thinking of which mark I should give based on the general impression the horse gave or the mistakes he might have made. A short comment, an encouraging statement, some congratulations, a brief summary of what was lacking today, a signature and the bell rings already to announce the start of a new ride.

Once in a while, one of us steps slightly aside from the general point of view. When differences arise, the group of seven judges is usually divided into two. Each half has a different idea, some seeing the glass half full, the others seeing it half empty. The average of these two opinions is generally the correct answer, the fairest answer and the satisfying final percentage. Some horses create repeated differences in the results. Of course, we judges are fully conscious of this. Generally, they are atypical horses who might as well divide the public in "pros" and "cons".

There is clearly no truth in judging but only points of view more or less homogenous. To those of you who would expect a unique opinion in judging, I am glad to say that evolution in scores is often due to a few judges daring to express a slightly different idea about a horse. If they were right, the tendency will become mainstream; if not, things will come back too normal.

Each one of us, if he expresses a different point of view in his judging, should be able to analyse how and why. Each one of us, in his analysis, should be able to say, in all honesty and humility, if he really meant to underline a particular aspect of the test or if he humanely made a mistake. If the difference is due to a mistake, and of course that can happen, the judge should not be afraid of admitting it, at least to himself. This should be respected and accepted! The most important thing for a judge is to analyse his mistakes quickly and get back to work immediately by focusing on the next test in order not to add up new mistakes to the first one due to a lack of concentration. This is all very complex and only experience helps.

Another hard task is to stay coherent in your judging throughout the competition. This is extremely difficult especially when the Grand Prix takes place on two days. One could imagine being very satisfied with his scores and placings after the first day and messing it all up the second day. Once again, the more experienced you get the less chance you have for such situations to arise.

When analysing my own scores and my colleagues' results, I always take into account the scores and placings as well as the differences between the highest and the lowest judge. All those aspects help me have a general impression of the situation.

In the Grand Prix in Herning, I often gave higher scores than my colleagues. This happened on several horses. Some journalists qualified my judging as "brave". This meant a lot to me because expressing a point of view in this world of experts is not that easy. It is in fact the privilege of those who are not afraid to discuss and defend their ideas with other professionals. That's how our sport continuously evolves and improves. Being part of this evolution is a honour that can only be equalled by the humility that must necessarily accompany it.

- by Isabelle Judet

**National Calendar of Seminars** - this is updated monthly – any alterations, omissions etc are in red so keep an eye out for those. It is available on the EA website <http://www.equestrian.org.au/content/officials-calendar>

*" Don't let anyone tell you what you can or cannot do, or cannot achieve. Just don't allow it. It's wrong. It's so wrong. Be what you want to be – and prove them wrong". Emma Watson*

Until next month

Sue