Hi all, well rain stops play for the Wagga Horse Trials in August, but we have a new date and hopefully the weather gods will smile on us with perfect weather for 11 and 12 September. Not that anyone of us would complain about the rain of course, but wouldn't it be great to have some all weather surfaces. Maybe under the auspices of our new umbrella group: the Riverina Equestrian Association … watch this space. The new date means that some people are not available for jobs so if you were not doing a job and would like to, please let us know. We also need more cake/slice bakers and offers of flowers and greenery to make it all look good. Some bales of hay for jump fill are needed too (about a dozen required). If you can provide any of these things email me and I’ll pass on to the appropriate person. Craig has done a lot of work on the course, maintenance and some building or rebuilding in the case of the bank. There will be more working bees, particularly the two weekends before the event. We have had a few new helpers, thank you to them, but it’s mainly the same people who have been helping for years and are more than ready to pass on the baton. Please do come and help, without people to maintain the course we won’t have a horse trials or a horse trials club next year.

Other things to mention are the annual general meeting (20 October, see notice on back page), reports from Berrima and Harden inside (thanks for those Georgie) and congratulations Hunter and Dee on their sixth place in the one star at Sydney.

Next meeting is 18 August, RSL Club, 7pm. See you there.

Cheers Rachel
(rcrease@csu.edu.au)
Berrima winter horse trials

Jye and Georgie, enjoying a warm winter weekend at Berrima

Usually Berrima in the middle of winter would not be the most ideal eventing weather, but on this occasion the clouds broke and gave us a weekend of perfect eventing weather, some even breaking out t-shirts! The club was represented by Jye Thurgate on George of the Jungle, Georgie Richardson on Secret Rendezvous and Darlington point local Hannah Stott on Darlington Grenadier.

In the Junior Prelim dressage, Jye and George of the Jungle achieved 64.55% for 53.2 penalties, taking the lead after dressage. George and Jye then went clear both in fences and time show jumping to remain top of the ladder with Clint Beresford hot on their heels just 5.4 penalties behind them. Jye and George then went clear cross country but racked up 0.4 time penalties to take out first place in the Main Event Photography Junior Prelim class!

Hannah completed a solid dressage test on Darlington Grenadier for 47.41% in the dressage and 78.9 penalties, Hannah and Grenadier got around the show jumping course under time though unfortunately taking 2 rails with her and completed this phase for a combined total of 86.9 penalties. This combination then went clear cross country with 21.6 time penalties, finishing up with a total of 108.5 penalties for 28th place.

And lastly was myself and Secret Rendezvous scoring a dressage PB (personal best) of 69.20% for 46.2 penalties, but had 2 poles for 8 penalties in the show jumping for a combined total of 54.2. Fortunately Secret Rendezvous was feeling great cross country and went clear and under time to finish on 54.2 penalties and in 9th place!

Having completed Saturdays events Jane (mum) and I decided to answer a call over the loud speaker for volunteers to pencil for dressage so we lent our afternoon to the well-oiled machine that is the Berrima Horse Trials committee and gained some invaluable experience penciling for the likes of Claudia Graham, Chris Burton, Shane Rose, Tallara Barwick and Lauren Balcomb, a great opportunity to watch how the pro’s dressage. We met some wonderful people and learnt some great dressage pointers.

I highly recommend if you ever get the chance to pencil that you volunteer, it gives you the rider an opportunity to see a test from the judges perspective.

Congratulations to all riders that competed at this event.

See you next time, Georgina
Harden horse trials

With a large turnout the Wagga Horse Trials Club was well represented at Harden ODE with members competing at all levels from Encourager to 1*. With the majority of competitors travelling down on the Friday night we were all a bit worried the event may be cancelled as it began pouring rain. The rain continued all weekend, varying from sleet to feeling like someone had turned a hose on full bore!

The dressage commenced at 8:30am Saturday morning, and after 10 mins searching for Arena 2 (last minute change) for the Prelim class, the day was under way with Jye Thurgate and George of the Jungle being trailblazer for the club. They performed well for a decent score of 57.73%, 20 jump and 5 time penalties XC for a total of 92.4 penalties and 8th place.

I followed after Jye aboard Secret Rendezvous (Ziggy) for a score of 55.91% not fabulous but we were happy enough for our first prelim run, unfortunately finishing the weekend being eliminated XC after 3 run outs.

Nicole Whittaker was riding her lovely grey Mallee Blue for 50.00% in the dressage and 11 time penalties XC for a solid placing of 9th with 90.00 penalties. Something I found interesting was that from 46 entries in the Prelim classes, only 25 competitors completed the course.

It was great to see Michelle Aldana and the newest member of the Wagga Eventing fraternity Claudia Aldana attending hopefully her first of many events. Dad Alex and Red Hot Bandit scored 52.4% for 71.4 penalties. Intro also included Andrew Cooper on Jye Thurgate' Spanish Equation (Rusty). Harden was Rusty's first event and gained 50.4% in the dressage and 0 time and jump penalties in the Cross country for a 16th place, hopefully we will see more good results from Rusty in the future.

The Pre-Novice class included Andrew Cooper on Vintage Rose (Daisy – Her first PN run). Tegan Bonet on Bulletproof (Bronc) and Hannah Cock on Lethal Hartz. All three members preformed with distinction and were rewarded with the following scores of 58.48%, for dressage and 6 time penalties placing overall third for Andrew and Daisy. Tegan and Bronc achieved 56.84 % for their solid dressage, gaining 64.7 penalties and 17 time for XC placing them at 8th. Hannah and Hartz had a decent test for 47.89% and 3 time penalties to finish up on 85.2 penalties and placing 6th.

The 1* class was represented by Andrew Cooper and Guest of Honour (Reuben). Their dressage started nicely until a big scary wind monster blew up through the gully and the arena shaking the trees and giving Reuby a little fright. He made up for this in the Cross country racking up 4 time penalties for XC and placing 5th.

Phil Cock and Twiggy were awarded a 54.09% for their dressage test, 20 jump and 2 time penalties XC for a final placing of 10th!.

See you next time! Georgina
Thanks from Albury HT

Message from Henry Crudas:
I meant to email you earlier so missed your last newsletter but in the next one could you please pass on huge thanks from Angela and I to those of the Wagga team that came and gave much needed and appreciated help at our event. Particular thanks to Christine Hill who was amazing – she judged dressage and also was the starter for the cross country on the Saturday and the Sunday – having that job in her reliable hands was a big relief. And big thanks also to Elaine Furze who froze to bits marshalling the dressage on the grass arena and missed out on both lunches that I sent out to her – how could you miss the person with the clipboard in the warm up area and instead give the lunch to the judge?????? Unfortunately neither she nor I realised that her radio was on ‘transmit only’ ... Thanks everyone.

Laminitis: reduce the risk

Just as all this lovely rain means lots of lovely pasture, it also leads to an increased risk of laminitis for horses grazing on it. And it’s not just the fat ponies we have to watch out for, any horse can suffer from laminitis to some degree or other. If you’re interested in this subject the Rural Industries Research and Developing Corporation has made its publication, Equine Laminitis: Managing pastures to reduce the risk (2010), freely available as an e-book. Just go to their website and you can download the pdf file onto your computer or go directly to this link: https://rirdc.infoservices.com.au/downloads/10-063.pdf