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WINTER 2015 | OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF DRESSAGE WINNIPEG



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*Melody and I wish all Dressage Winnipeg competitors a
successful 2015 show season!*

- Sue Braun, owner Sue's Tack Shop



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Layout & design of newsletter courtesy of Lindsay Feller

ON THE COVER:

In memory of Sheryl Feller

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Mark Your Calendars!

APRIL

Misty River Dressage Schooling Show

Misty River

April 19, 2015

MAY

Northfield Farms Dressage Schooling Show

Northfield Farms

May 9, 2015

Kendra McBain Memorial Show

Birds Hill Park

May 30 - 31, 2015

JUNE

Capt. DeKenyeres Memorial Show

Birds Hill Park

June 27 - 28, 2015

JULY

Westman Dressage Show

Keystone Centre, Brandon

July 11 - 12, 2015

AUGUST

Midsummer Madness Show

Birds Hill Park

August 15 - 16, 2015

SEPTEMBER

Autumn Classic & Mb Provincial Championships

Blrds Hill Park

September 12 - 13, 2015

Westman Dressage Show

Keystone Centre, Brandon

September 12 - 13, 2015



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Message from the Chair

By Merelyn Hunkin, DW Chairman

Happy New Year all! Winter is treating us much better than last year, so we should all have the opportunity to do more riding and training since we seem to be safe from a "Polar Vortex". Individuals and stables are gearing up for clinics and schooling shows. Several stables are planning their own dressage schooling shows, which lifts some of the onus from the DW board in planning them. Northfield Farm and Misty River Ranch have both set plans in motion for spring schooling shows. Check out the DW Facebook page for details, as they first become available.

The board is busy planning our 2015 bronze and gold shows, which will all be held in Birds Hill Park this year. A Give It A Go clinic is in the works again for 2015 along with several other educational activities. Liane Parker is the Education Chairman for this year. Watch our Facebook page and our Eblast messages to DW members for information and applications for these activities.

Our new sponsorship chairman, Krista Thiessen, is busily planning her campaign to find sponsors for the year 2015. Thanks to those who sponsored us in 2014. Welcome back to those who are able to support us again in 2015. We really appreciate your support.

So have a blast in 2015. There will be numerous opportunities to learn more about our sport and participate in competitions this year. Be sure to thank the volunteers who serve on the board or assist DW's board at the shows and other DW events. A smiling thank you goes a long way.

Spring Dressage Schooling Shows

MISTY RIVER DRESSAGE SCHOOLING SHOW

Dressage Schooling Show: Open to all, taking place on Sunday 19th April 2015, at Misty River Ranch.

All test levels, flat classes, freestyles and will be including Western Dressage for the first time. Stalls available. Competition arena will be 20m x 60m, indoors, heated! Prize list available soon.
Contact: biron@mistyriverranch.com for more details.

NORTHFIELD FARMS DRESSAGE SCHOOLING SHOW

Dressage Schooling Show at Northfield Farms, Springsteen, Saturday, May 9.

Walk trot to EC tests and Hack Classes. Show Committee: Ann Loewen, Cheryl Heming, Herman Schwiezer. Competition indoors.

CLINICS CORNER

BONNY BONNELLO CLINICS

Held at Deerfield Farm on Roblin Blvd.

March 6 - 8, 2015

May 1 - 3, 2015

June 12 - 14, 2015

August 24 - 26, 2015

October 30 - November 1, 2015

AUDITORS WELCOME - NO CHARGE

Contact Heather Thomas 233-2825 or
email hthomas@mts.net

ARMAND VALKENBORG CLINICS

March 13 - 15, 2015

May 1 - 3, 2015

June 9 - 11, 2015

August 21, 23, 2015

Contact Liane Parker: ipar@mymts.net

BIRGIT VALKENBORG CLINIC

September 15, 2015

Contact Liane Parker: ipar@mymts.net

IRENE SCHECKENDIEK CLINICS

February 28 - March 6, 2015

Contact Natasha Tarvis: familyt@mymts.net

DOMINIQUE BARBIER

June 5 – 7

B & E Acres

Contact Brenda McCann bmccann1@mymts.net

EDDO HOEKSTRA

May 21 – 24

Contact Tara Morrison at equinediscoveries@hotmail.com



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Message from the Show Chair

Courtesy of Sue Matthews

I know it's cold outside but before we know it show season will be upon us. Now is probably a good time to review the things that you will need in preparation for the warmer weather.

Firstly take some time to review the rule changes from Equine Canada for the 2015 season and the new 2015 Dressage tests. These can be found online at www.equinecanada.ca. Whilst we will do our best to incorporate the major rule changes in our 2015 Prize List it will not be a comprehensive list so please take the time to acquaint yourselves with the 2015 rules before entering your first competition.

Secondly take some time to read our Prize List once it has been released. Pay particular attention to our awards section and plan your show season accordingly. Unfortunately some people missed out on awards last year because they failed to read the rules associated with them. If you are going to enter our shows why would you not want to reap the rewards offered?

Thirdly make sure that all of your memberships are current. Don't leave it until the last minute to renew! Get a jump on the season, some memberships offer discounts if you renew early!

Bronze Show Entry Requirements: Dressage Winnipeg, Manitoba Horse Council and Equine Canada Bronze or higher Sport License. (Please note Temporary Bronze EC Sport Licenses will no longer be available at our shows in 2015 as per Article A208 General Regulations)

Gold Show Entry Requirements: Dressage Winnipeg, Manitoba Horse Council, Equine Canada Gold or higher Sport License, Dressage Canada, Horse Passport and Horse License.

Remember, if riding as an Adult Amateur you must hold AA status with Equine Canada! Please also note that whoever signs your entry form as the person responsible at a show must also hold a valid EC Sport License at the same level or higher than the level you are entering in the show. In the case of a junior this person does not have to be a parent it can be your coach.

Here's hoping the weather is going to be perfect.....Get your show entries in early!

If you have any questions or ideas please feel free to email sue@dressagewinnipeg.com or call me at 204 444 5146.

Happy Training,
Sue Matthews

Dressage Winnipeg Education Events

DRESSAGE WINNIPEG WILL BE HOSTING THE FOLLOWING 2 SEMINARS ON MARCH 7, 2015 AT 145 PACIFIC (MHC OFFICES)

10AM - 12PM PREPARING FOR AN EQUINE EMERGENCY - BETTY ANNE MCPHEDRON

Accidents do happen and being prepared will help assure a positive outcome. This course will educate the participants about:

- proactive measures which can be taken ahead of an incident
- 1st Aid Kit contents for the human and equine patient
- constructive steps to take following an accident
- information to be collected prior to the vet's arrival
- follow-up bandaging, if required

Betty-Ann McPhedran is a Master Evaluator for English and Western Instructor/Coaches and a Master Learning Facilitator for NCCP Theory Courses. Betty-Ann has owned and run a boarding stable since 1979. She has been an Equine Canada certified Coach since 1986 and she promotes the Equine Canada Rider Levels and Instructor/Coach certification.

1:00 - 3PM ATHLETIC THERAPY - KATHLYN HOSSACK

Kathlyn is an athletic therapy student at U of W student in her final year. With course work completed, she is concentrating on her final internship hours before graduating with a BSc. in Kinesiology and certifying nationally as an Athletic Therapist. She has ridden competitively in western and hunter jumper disciplines, and recreationally for over 15 years now. Kathlyn has a special interest in how improving the riders biomechanics and overall fitness can improve performance of the horse-rider team-- and counter chronic pain in the riding population. As riders we are notorious for accepting chronic pain and injuries as "a part of the sport" and often are not given the opportunity to better our own health and movement.

Through her degree, Kathlyn has focused on movement requirements of the rider, how best to condition the rider for in the saddle work, postural re-education for the rider, and how best to treat chronic pain in the equestrian population. Most recently she has been working on a research project that involves taking riders with chronic pain for 8wks through a posture re-education/biomechanics program to see how their pain in and out of the saddle changes, and how their movement improves.

Athletic therapists are highly trained professionals in the art and science of injury prevention, strength and conditioning, education, and rehabilitation.

COST:

Members: \$20 each session or \$35 for both (includes lunch)

Non-Members: \$25 each session or \$40 for both (includes lunch)

Please RSVP to liane@dressagewinnipeg.com if you are attending to assure we have enough refreshments

GIVE IT A GO / FUN SHOW: JULY 25 - 26, 2015

Location: Birds Hill Park Clinicians: Doreen Horsey and Lynn Poole.

More information to follow.

Westman Dressage Horse Education Series

Riverbank Discovery Centre, Brandon, MB

All sessions 1:30 pm – 4:00 pm

Members \$10 Non-Members \$15

February 15th – Veterinary Discussion & Worming Talk

March 14th – Training Terminology – What's It all Mean?

April 12th – Pasture Management for Horses & Basic Electric Fencing for Horses

Thank You Very Much!

A new feature starts this issue:

A chance to say thank you publicly to someone who has gone above and beyond....there are just a couple of rules:

- You cannot thank someone for something that they are getting paid for
- You cannot thank someone for work they are doing to complete their volunteer hours
- Only one thank you per member per issue

Liane came up with the wonderful idea for this feature so I have asked her to go first...

THANK YOU to all those individuals who take the financial risk of bringing in clinicians so that we have a variety of teaching styles which all the Dressage centric riders may learn from.
(submitted by Liane Parker)

THANK YOU TO ANNA DAVILA....the first year Bob Parker showed his young horse, Mani was quite uptight about being at the park. Bob had to go to the warm up ring by himself and, as luck would have it, there was no other horse scheduled to be out there at the same time. Without being asked to, Anna Davila went out with Bob and stayed for his ride to be sure that he had someone there should he need assistance. Anna's gesture meant a lot to Bob – he has never forgotten her kindness. (submitted by Bob Parker)

Email your your 'Thank You Very Much!' to Barb! barb@dressagewinnipeg.com

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*Wishing all the Dressage Winnipeg riders
Good Luck!*



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for this season



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In Memory of Sheryl Feller

Article by Barb Wansbutter

In Memory of Sheryl Feller



Dressage Winnipeg and the Manitoba equestrian family lost a very special member on November 25th. Sheryl Feller was a wonderful role model for us all – an accomplished business woman, a loving mother, wife and grandmother and a passionate horsewoman. Sheryl was proof that you can indeed have it all if you are willing to put your heart into everything you do. Most of us knew Sheryl through our connection with horses so I would like to paraphrase a section of her obituary about her many professional accomplishments: *Sheryl attended the University of Manitoba where she attained a diploma in Dental Hygiene, a Bachelor of Arts and an MBA. Sheryl started a management consulting practice which served a wide variety of clients from major corporations to small non-profit groups. She was always willing to accommodate client needs and ensured the highest level of service and results. Sheryl was a Certified Management Consultant, a Fellow Certified Management Consultant and was the Chair of the Board of Directors of the Deposit Guarantee Corporation of Manitoba at her death. She was the first*

woman in 130 years to be elected to the Board of the Portage Mutual Insurance Company and was a past Chair of the Board of Governors for Red River College and President of the Sanford Credit Union.

Sheryl grew up loving horses on the family farm in Sanford. She competed in both English and Western events and became an accomplished coach. Her two most treasured students were her children, Jamie who has become a well-respected trainer and reining competitor and Lindsay, who has excelled at both dressage and hunter/jumper, winning numerous awards and championships. She always spoke of them with such pride. Sheryl established Bluebear Farms in 2002 and welcomed students, boarders, and bred some lovely horses. It was our gain when their home-breed mare, Nelly, decided that jumping wasn't her favourite thing and she and Lindsay began to compete regularly in dressage. Sheryl always did what she could to support the equestrian community and served on the board of Dressage Winnipeg for several years including time spent as Volunteer Chair. Her special joy was being able to share the dressage journey with her daughter, they had a great partnership and loved working together towards their common goals. Sheryl was always on hand at the shows to help wherever she could – how many of us have ridden our tests with Sheryl calling them? Sheryl was always smiling, always offering an encouraging word or helpful suggestion. We will all miss her positive energy at our shows.

Sheryl and I first became friends twenty years ago when our daughters were in Pony Club together. Lindsay was already a good little rider and Jessica was just taking her first ever lessons. As you can imagine, Sheryl was very involved with the club, welcoming and a huge source of information. Many years later she continued to teach me when I became one of her "Golden Spur" ladies training at

Bluebear. Sheryl was a wonderful coach and took such pleasure in each lesson, each student. We older ladies were her special project – she did so much for us. Although we were never going to the Olympics, Sheryl thought we were brave and strong and able to just get better and better. She believed in us and taught us to believe in ourselves, a great gift we will always be so thankful for. Sheryl was the well-deserved recipient of the Manitoba Horse Council 2014 Coach of the Year award.

I will always remember my last conversation with Sheryl...we were hanging out in the barn talking after a lesson and Sheryl began to talk about the magical year that she was having, counting her blessings: Lindsay & Nelly had moved up to Third Level and all their hard work had paid off with good results.

She and Lindsay, along with her other students, had had a blast at the shows; Jamie & his wife had a baby boy in the spring and Sheryl was delighted with her newest grandchild. Her granddaughters meant so much to her and she was looking forward to having lots of fun with her little grandson; Sheryl and her husband had just celebrated 40 years of marriage and had gone on a romantic trip to France highlighted by a trip to the World Equestrian Games in Normandy; she had been awarded life member status in the Institute of Certified Management Consultants; she had been recognized as an Alumni of Distinction from the University of Manitoba; she had very recently won the MHC Coach of the Year and was particularly gratified that so many of her students had grouped together to nominate her for this award. She said that it was like the three parts of her life – family, work and horses – had all come together in a year of highlights. To me when I think of Sheryl I always think of the joy she expressed that day.

Sheryl's life ended much too soon and she is missed so much but she lived every minute of her life to the fullest. Sheryl gave of herself to others and her life was full of love. It is an example to us all.





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Dressage Winnipeg 2015 Board

Here are your Dressage Winnipeg Board Members for 2015!

Chair - Merelyn Hunkin

Vice-Chair - Maureen Demkey

Secretary - Tanya Tabin

Treasurer - Sandra Hobday

Membership - Christine Stevens

Show Chair - Sue Matthews

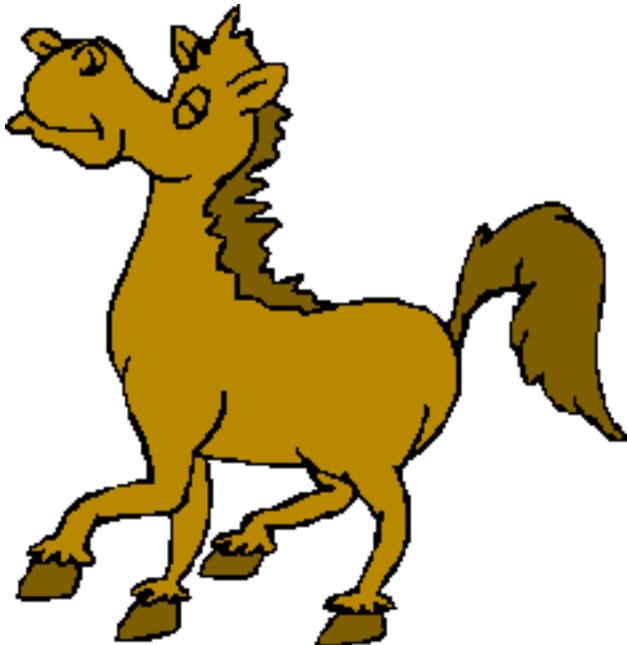
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Volunteers - Jeanette Hiebert

Sponsorship - Krista Thiessen

Newsletter - Barb Wansbutter

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Year End Awards

Dressage Winnipeg's year end awards banquet was held on October 26, 2014 at the Norwood Hotel. Congratulations to our 2014 winners!

Gillian Sevier High Point Award - Emma Tarvis & It's Lacoste

Capt. John De Kenyeres Jr High Point award - Claire Ploughman & Rhapsody in Blue

DW SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS:

Age 11 - 15 \$250 each: Drew Mittermayr and Kylie Wright

Age 16 - 21 \$300 each: Ashley Jackson and Callum Read

AA over 21 \$300: Cheryl Heming

HIGH POINT AWARDS

Walk Trot - Rhonda Wall-Dueck & Rhysen

Training Level - Kylie Wright & So You Think You Can Tango

First Level - Lucero Desrochers & Atlas

Second Level - Emma Tarvis & It's Lacoste

Third Level - Lindsay Feller & Unbelievable

Fourth Level - Gaetane Manaigre & Hyacinthe H

Prix St. George - Brandy Catton & Welwyn

Gold Dressage Seat Equitation - Cheryl Heming & Entrepid

Bronze Dressage Seat Equitation - Kylie Wright & So You Think You Can Tango

First Level Freestyle - Karine Duhamel & Windlass

PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONS

AA Training Level - Kayla Kuebler & Northern Chinook

Jr Training Level - Claire Ploughman & Rhapsody In Blue

Open First Level - Gaetane Manaigre & Donnerwetter

AA First Level - Cheryl Heming & Entrepid

Jr First Level - Claire Ploughman & Rhapsody In Blue

Open Second Level - Emma Tarvis & It's Lacoste

AA Second Level - Alicia Enns & Liebe

AA Third Level - Lindsay Feller & Unbelievable

Open Fourth Level - Gaetane Manaigre & Hyacinthe H

AA Dressage Seat Equitation - Cheryl Heming & Entrepid

Junior Dressage Seat Equitation - Claire Ploughman & Rhapsody In Blue

AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE -

Bronze Medals

Training Level - Drew Mittermayr & Get A Clue

Training Level - Kayla Kuebler & Northern Chinook

First Level - Cheryl Heming & Entrepid

Fourth Level - Gaetane Manaigre & Hyacinthe H

Our last two awards were graciously sponsored by Megan Henry in loving memory of her partner Piksun...

Spirit of Dressage - Sue Matthews

Rising Star - Brooke Derocquigny

Year End Awards - Photos



Gillian Sevier High Point
Emma Tarvis & It's Lacoste



Capt. John DeKenyeres Jr. High Point
Claire Ploughman & Rhapsody in Blue



Age 11 - 15 Scholarship Winners
Drew Mittermayr & Kylie Wright



Age 16 - 21 Scholarship Winners
Ashley Jackson & Callum Read



AA Over 21 Scholarship Winners
Cheryl Heming



Walk/Trot High Point
Rhonda Wall-Dueck & Rhysen



Training Level High Point
Kylie Wright & So You Think You Can Tango



First Level High Point
Lucero Desrochers & Atlas



Second Level High Point
Emma Tarvis & It's Lacoste



Third Level High Point
Lindsay Feller & Unbelievable



Fourth Level High Point
Gaetane Manaigne & Hyacinthe H



Prix St. George High Point
Brandy Catton & Welwyn

Year End Awards - Photos



*Gold Dressage Seat Equitation
Cheryl Heming & Entrepid*



*Bronze Dressage Seat Equitation
Kylie Wright & So You Think You Can Tango*



*First Level Freestyle
Karine Duhamel & Windlass*



*AA Training Level Provincial Champion
Kayla Kuebler & Northern Chinook*



*Jr. Training Level Provincial Champion
Claire Ploughman & Rhapsody In Blue*



*Open First Level Provincial Champion
Gaetane Manaigre & Donnerwetter*



*AA First Level Provincial Champion
Cheryl Heming & Entrepid*



*Jr. First Level Provincial Champion
Claire Ploughman & Rhapsody In Blue*



*Open Second Level Provincial Champion
Emma Tarvis & It's Lacoste*

Photo Not Available



*AA Second Level Provincial Champion
Alicia Enns & Liebe*



*AA Third Level Provincial Champion
Lindsay Feller & Unbelievable*



*Open Fourth Level Provincial Champion
Gaetane Manaigre & Hyacinthe H*

Year End Awards - Photos



*AA Dressage Seat Equitation
Cheryl Heming & Entrepid*



*Jr. Dressage Seat Equitation
Claire Ploughman & Rhapsody In Blue*



*Award of Excellence
Drew Mittermayr & Get A Clue
Bronze Medal - Training Level*



*Award of Excellence
Kayla Kuebler & Northern Chinook
Bronze Medal - Training Level*



*Award of Excellence
Cheryl Heming & Entrepid
Bronze Medal - First Level*



*Award of Excellence
Gaetane Manaigre & Hyacinthe H
Bronze Medal - Fourth Level*



*Spirit of Dressage Award
Sue Matthews*



*Rising Star Award
Brooke Derocquigny*

CIEC 2014 Daily Write-Up

Written by CIEC Dressage MB Team member Ann Loewen

CIEC - SEPTEMBER 30 – OCTOBER 5, 2014

CIEC Countdown Day -3: Winnipeg to Blainville Tuesday September 30, 2014

Takeoff, finally. After the days and weeks of preparation – down to the final hour of stuffing and zipping and latching all our gear in place – we are en route to the CIEC (Canadian Interprovincial Equestrian Competition). Marlo and I are on the same flight, and we try not to think about the pressure points our saddles might be experiencing in cargo. To save packing space I'm travelling in my tall riding boots, and I hope I don't get a blood clot as they press against the backs of my knees. I considered wearing my spurs too, just for the heck of it, but then I remembered the Team Code of Conduct and told myself to behave. I also hope our esteemed Chef d'Equipe, Geri Sweet, won't be dismayed when she meets us. She implored us to pack light but I think we're going to be looking for a Sherpa.

CIEC Countdown Day -2: Blainville Wednesday October 1, 2014

It's speed dating with horses day. Someone has put thought and effort into the combining of horse and rider but nobody knows who, and we accept our matches as they come. There are adjustments among the jumpers, and lingering questions in the minds of some riders in both disciplines about whether this is really going to work. I am partnered with a hot little eventing mare. As in: Hot. Little. Eventing. Mare. Could anything equine possibly be more different than my Winnie? And she has a distinct tendency towards a hopping/bucking movement every time I put my leg on for the first little while. But Armand Valkenborg, dressage coach par excellence, talks me through it on our remote mike system, and by the end Abigail and I have something very satisfactory happening between us. The entire team plus coaches and supporters go out for a delicious dinner – straight from the Equestrian Park - and I am only briefly bothered by the fact that I feel too dirty and chilly to be comfortable in the surroundings. As soon as the food comes that's all that matters. We end with a horse walk in the dark and a group effort at night chores, and I think everyone is as glad as I am to lie down and sleep.

CIEC Countdown Day -1 Thursday October 2, 2014

What a day – postcard-perfect sunshine and autumn colours, so many excellent horses, friendly and fun people throughout the site. Our team's horses are settling in well, the one exception being Claire's mare who colicked mildly in the night. She's improving by morning light, thankfully, and Claire can still ride her warm-up. Dressage riders on leased horses only have 1 hour, per provincial team, with our mounts + coach + schooling time in the competition ring. We are all new to each other in all respects, and of course the horses have their quirks (as I'm sure we do to them). I'm largely focused on my own mare, but out of my peripheral vision it appears the other three are making progress with their horses. My gal and I have a fantastic ride - aside from her acting out some anxiety about going into the competition ring - and I'm feeling things I've never felt before in First Level movements. I can best describe her as a mini Camiro, my daughter Hannah's jumper, on a really good flatwork day when he hasn't a thought in his head about jumping. As to what's new to me on the ground, yesterday I did polo wraps with Danae for the first time (though today I got a D- when one of them loosened), learned to braid quickly with elastics thanks to my dressage mentor Cheryl Heming, and did a competition inspection trot for the veterinarians (that one we passed no problem). This evening we have the official opening ceremonies, for which I am selected to be team flag-bearer. I'm really not sure what garnered me that honour, but I didn't trip and the parents tell me our entrance was truly moving. We pick up my daughter Ayda and Claire Ploughman's father Bruce at the train station and are happy to know there's another set of helping hands and smiling faces on our side tomorrow.

CIEC Competition Day 1 Friday October 3, 2014

The time has come to put ourselves to the test, literally and figuratively. It's an early start for us dressagers as the first ride is at 8:00, and we are asked to braid in the morning so as not to cause our horses any discomfort overnight. The ride times are determined differently than a usual dressage show, and the topic is the subject of much lively discussion – mostly in their frequent meetings – among the chefs d'équipe and the show committee. It seems there are various ways of making up an order of go for this type of competition: could be results-based, could be by a random daily draw, could be all the team going in at once or in rotation. So day by day we have a new order of go revealed, and consensus is reached about how that order is determined. So off we go, and there's a challenge for all of us. All our horses are some combination of hot, cold, flat, anxious, spooky, distracted. As is so often the case with riding, it's equal parts thrilling and humbling. Personally, I'm thrilled with my warmup, but I can't maintain it through her separation anxiety/spookiness as we go in the ring. So tomorrow, once she goes in that lovely zone I know she's capable of, she stays there (as do I).

CIEC Competition Day 2 Saturday October 4, 2014

If there's one thing I've learned to do this year, it's ride a horse show in a drenching downpour. I've done warmups, hunter courses, flat classes and dressage tests in mudbaths and sloughs three times already this season, so why not make it four? Today during my warmup I notice a strange bubbling sensation on the surface of my legs, and I realize it's the way the air trapped under my sopping wet breeches moves around while I'm posting the trot. The show, of course, goes on, and except for Abby acting out her separation anxiety again at the in-gate, she seems to be learning to trust me and we have a much better test today. No spinning, no bolting, much less hollowing and counter-bending. We lose the canter once in each direction from my not supporting her enough, but otherwise it goes well and I can definitely improve on that tomorrow. I really like the way we do just one test a day in this competition, and have two tries at Test 3.

The jumpers have been through their travails, from a horse who is blind in one eye to another who hasn't been ridden for the past 6 weeks to one who just happens to be very green. But their riders are a typically spirited bunch, and we are all glad of their company. After we change out of our sodden clothes, Dawn Lampe gathers up everyone's whites and promises to have them clean by the end of the day. Which, miraculously, she does.

Our coaches and support people are amazing and uncomplaining throughout – it is truly a privilege to be surrounded by such a team. And speaking of team – this is another aspect of this show that is very different, especially for us highly-autonomous horse people. The schedules, dress codes, group events (mandatory, of course) can seem burdensome on top of the demands and stresses of the show itself. But the mutual shows of support, the laughter (ask Danae Martin for her picture of the jumpers in fast food costumes...), the way the stall fairies come at night and have everything done by the time you get back from walking your horse, makes it a very worthwhile effort.

In the afternoon we are told to attend the Clean & Sober presentation (as per Susan Ploughman, who mis-read the 'Clean Sport' notice on the white-board) on medication use in competition. I admit I did a bit of complaining about having to go, mostly because I was looking forward to a quiet and restful afternoon. It turns out to be fascinating, at least to biomedical nerds like myself, and given by Canada's top FEI level equine veterinarian. I get to ask a question I've been wondering about for years, about use of inhaled steroids for horses with respiratory allergies (answer: they're working on it). Then when we go back for evening feed, there's an impromptu drill team happening at the Poney Club (not a typo, that's the French spelling) which happens to be on site. Twenty-four tiny riders on twenty-four ponies, very closely following their instructor's commands through quite a long program – it was fantastic.

The best part of the day was the last: an incredibly delicious buffet followed by Quebec's dressage Freestyle championships (with nine finalists, ranging from Frist Level to Grand Prix, plus FEI and Young Rider qualifiers). Whatever else one might say about Quebec, two things they do right are food and dressage. We are an incredibly privileged bunch.

CIEC Competition Day 3 Sunday October 5, 2014

The skies miraculously clear, in defiance of the forecast, and we have sunshine by 9:00am. Which makes the place look ever so pretty again, but it's far too little to get rid of yesterday's inch of rain. The jumpers take it in the chin, and a large number of riders are eliminated within the first 3 fences. Apparently the footing here has very poor tolerance for rain – some people cork their horses even though it's a sand ring. As Susan Korstrom says, "If a horse refuses today it's probably out of self-preservation." In the dressage rings we can still pretend we're galloping along a beach in the surf, which would be a lovely image except for the way the sand plasters everyone's horses, tack, boots and white breeches. At least yesterday we had the rain to wash it off.

We do First Level Test 3 again today, and I make improvements as well as have some greater difficulties, so my marks stall. The canter loops happen, except for a brief swap of the back lead which I quickly correct, and my entry at A is actually quite good. But the rain yesterday had a calming, white-noise effect on my mare and in today's brisk autumn breeze she's once again hot to trot, and canter for that matter. If I could just have another couple weeks with her...Because I have grown to love her energy, I know what she's capable of from our warm-ups, now I can feel when she's about to take off and am mostly able to catch her quietly before she goes into orbit, I trust her with a full loose rein in spite of her misplaced energy.

In between all the above it's busy at the Poney Club, with endless groups of little kids having lessons in groups of 5 or 6. The jumping class schools the world's smallest cross-rail, while others go on mini trail rides about the site.

And then it's time for goodbyes. Which are mostly only relative as we will see each other in Winnipeg. But not under such circumstances, so it's good bye to CIEC as much as anything. We say a heartfelt au revoir to dressage coach Armand Valkenborg, who will perhaps have a few more attendees at his clinics when he comes to Winnipeg now. He has been incredibly supportive of this event, which must be so challenging for a coach, especially while he still has his own barn and clients nearby.

CIEC de-brief – Montreal to Winnipeg Monday October 6, 2014

Once again I have everything packed, this time with wet books and damp saddle pads, which might explain why the tack bag is over-weight. But the check-in agent turns a blind eye, and the fellow in oversize baggage asks if I'm a professional jockey when he x-rays the contents. Before I know it we're airborne and it's really all over.

How to sum up? Of course there are the placings and the marks, which only tell a tiny bit of the story, and in our team's case might not look very impressive on a scoreboard. My scores never hit 60, which I would have liked. But all my scores were in the mid-50s, and there was daily progress in both my understanding of the horse and the discipline of dressage. Specifically, I learned to deal with a spooky, herd-bound mare, prone to bolting at the least provocation in the show ring. Now that it's over, I can confess that I wanted a different horse the first day because I really felt uncomfortable with her. But I knew that I was never going to learn if I didn't persist, and I would never get past my own limitations if I didn't embrace the horse's challenges as equally as her qualities. I hope little Abby can find a way to shine in the ring too.

Among other intangibles for the team, Gabby Oleski was complimented by a local trainer who knows her leased horse and noticed how well he went with Gabby riding him. We all discovered how we function when both under pressure and in unfamiliar circumstances. For my part, aside from almost aspirating a braiding elastic when I tried to talk with one clenched between my teeth, nearly guillotining Marlo with the pop-forward mechanism of the team van seats while rushing to get out, and repeatedly getting my wraps wrong which I don't normally do – thank goodness for Chris Dolinski who noticed and patiently reviewed correct technique – I think I held it together. We won't add up the number of hours of sleep that didn't happen. Plenty of time to catch up on those now.

There's a quote by Mario Andretti, the Formula One driver – "If everything seems like it's under control, you're not going fast enough". I think most adult amateurs riders and horse show parents feel like that, as we try and carve a horse life out of the rest of the demands on us. I felt conflicted leaving my work to come to the CIEC, with my hospital critically short of physicians and so many people needing care. But I reflected on my long-ago origins for pursuing this goal – seeing Grand Prix dressage on TV for the first time during the 1976 Montreal Olympics, and wondering if I would ever have the chance to understand how horses and humans could work together like that. It's taken thirty-five years to get a glimmer of insight, but it's definitely worth the wait.

I was privileged to ride a variety of wonderful horses here in Manitoba leading up to the CIEC, so that I would be ready to deal with whatever came my way. Huge thanks to Sheryl and Lindsay Feller, Irene Loewen, Emma Tarvis, Hermann Schweizer, Sarah Biron and my daughter Hannah for letting my ride their amazing horses, for giving me advice, support and feedback (and occasionally, when I really needed it, yelling at me). And muchos gracias to Darcie Meyers for organizing my rides at Pine Ridge. I truly couldn't have done this without all of you.

AEL

CIEC

My name is **Maddy Tabin**, I was on the 2014 Manitoba CIEC team as a dressage rider. This was my first big horse showing event and I was super excited to be selected for the team. I had to raise the money for all my expenses myself. I did many chores, bbq's and sold 26 cases of chocolate bars. Special thanks to Geri Sweet for helping me with the chocolate bars. I was very grateful to Manitoba Horse Council, Dressage Winnipeg and Dr. Ann Loewen for their sponsorships.

In order to prepare to ride a leased horse I worked with my coach and rode as many different horses as possible. I was riding horses from ponies to 17hh horses. They all had different movements and different temperaments. I ride with Armand in Clinics so was ready to work with him in Blainville as the Dressage coach.

My mom, brother and I drove out to Blainville. We made it a fun trip and stopped at Niagara falls, Marine land and the African Lion Safari. My favorite was Marineland. I was chosen as a volunteer for the show. Living out of a car for two weeks and running out of clean clothes was not fun though.

I met the other Team Manitoba riders on Tuesday morning. I liked them right away. Hanging out with our teammates was some of the best parts of the week.

It was interesting to ride a horse that was trained differently than any of the ones that I have ridden in the last few years. My leased horse was a 14.2 mare named Mayday Madame. She is a pretty chestnut with a flaxen mane and tail and lots of chrome. She is owned and ridden by a 20 year old girl named Kariane Corbeil. Kariane spoke no English. Mayday was the right size for me, but because she was used to being ridden by an older girl she was much too strong for me. As she ran through my hands during the first test I thought "Mayday, Mayday". Somehow I managed to keep her in the ring and on the pattern though.

One of the really cool events during the weekend was a Dressage Freestyle Demonstration. There were some beautiful horses and it was neat to watch them go in time to the music. I selected two or three of the horses that I thought we should try to take home.

The most important lesson that I learned was that you can prepare as much as you can, and work as hard as possible but things still happen that will prevent you from performing how you expected. My pony Snap and I hope to have the opportunity to represent Manitoba together in the future. Special thanks to Geri Sweet who was not only our Chef D'Equipe but Team Manitoba Cooler maker. She also resized our cooler when we got home so I could use it on my pony, Snap Dragon!

On the Road to Success – The Scholarship Riders

Wondering what the scholarship quizzes are all about? Dressage Winnipeg's three scholarship programs require the participants to answer factual short answer questions, and longer answers at the end of each quiz. The long answer questions reflect the participant's personal experiences , and their relationship with their coaches and their horses. Since publishing the entire quiz from each rider would be too lengthy for this publication, I decided to lift some highlights from each quiz to share with the DW membership.

The short answers reflect topics such as the following:

- Dressage Canada, Manitoba Horse Council, Dressage Winnipeg and FEI information;
- definitions and descriptions of dressage tack, movements, tests, and judging terms;
- information about John de Kenyeres, who started the DW scholarship programs.

The participants can use reference books or magazines, the internet, the DC Omnibus, the DW website etc. to find this specific information.

The questions at the end of each quiz are always entertaining, and display the focus and dedication that each rider has developed. The following excerpts from the 2014 quizzes definitely illustrate the writers' love of dressage, and their appreciation of the horses and people who participate in their dressage "journey".

The Adult Amateurs over the age of twenty-one years (Sorry about giving this clue about your age, girls, considering you are both so young at heart!), who entered the scholarship program were asked why they chose the discipline of dressage, as the focus for their riding. Sandra Harder answered : " The reason I have chosen dressage is because I value the connection to the horse physically and physiologically, and dressage provides that outlet."

Cheryl Heming responded with light-hearted clarity: "Over time I have been attracted to horses with complicated personalities and physical issues, sometimes frustratingly so. Dressage training has made them all rideable and manageable and the horses themselves have become so much happier." She also added: "The challenge of a short person like me getting on a huge horse and competing with it in the show ring still surprises me. Dressage has allowed me to do this."

Riders from the age of sixteen to twenty-one years of age, identified and described positive attributes their horses had as dressage mounts. Ashley Jackson wrote: "Reaction time.-She's very responsive to my aids allowing me to make small changes that make large improvements.

Giordana Curtolo said: " He is willing to learn. He went from a jumper to a dressage horse in just three months."

Callum Read was brutally honest, yet positive, about his horse: "My horse Anton, I feel, is capable of a decent honest test in the dressage ring. He is calm and obedient and tries his heart out. Watching him in the field, I believe if I persevere, there is some movement to discover and I look forward greatly to achieving his extended trot. I don't think he has the wow factor of some of the top dressage horses, but as an eventer I hope his willingness to please, his honesty and his overall outlook on life and workmanlike attitude to the job in hand will hate us up well for the remaining two stages. Let's face it, even a tumbling sponsor tent is in his education!"

On the Road to Success – The Scholarship Riders (continued)

Next, this same group also shared some dressage goals. Ashley hoped to: “Improve my seat by doing no stirrup work every lesson.”, and to: “get a 65% in an equitation class at my first horse show. Which was achieved the Mid-Summer Madness Show.” (Way to go, Ashley!)

Giordana included this, as one of her goals: “Another goal I have for me and my horse is to trust each other. He is a new horse for me and for me to be able to trust him I have to ride more and continue to show with him and earn better scores.” This sounds like a very fine plan!

Callum had several short term goals, but also stated: “My goal for 2014 with Anton is to perfect first level and feel that’s where I belong. I have grown to love the dressage ring ...” (Hurray, a male convert to dressage!)

The youngest group of competitors in the Scholarship program were asked to explain ways that their coach assisted them to be a better dressage rider. Emma Creasy commented that: “My coach has made all of my lessons fun so it makes dressage fun for me.” Keep up the good work coach! Our province needs more junior dressage riders!

Drew Mittermayr explained that: “Confidence- When I first started riding again, I had lost almost all of my confidence, but my coach is very patient and understanding. Now I can transfer that into my riding skills.” She also said: “ Because every horse is different, different techniques are needed, and they{her coaches} help me to figure out what works best for each horse.”

Another junior rider, Katherine Page had similar thoughts, as her coach has taught her that:

“You need different tools in your tool box. Different techniques will work, on a horse on different days, and on different horses.” Another point that Katherine’s coach has taught her is: “Adapt to the horse.”

It sounds like Drew and Katherine are both preparing for the variety of mounts, who will fill their future adventures in dressage.

Julia Roblin, another participant in the eleven to fifteen years category wrote that her coach: “...breaks things down and explains them in a way that sounds strange at first, but I actually understand, and this helps me a lot with my riding.” and “ ...she gives us lunge lessons, where the horse is in side-reins and we have our hands on our hips, so we have to control the horse with our seat and legs.” You sound very positive about your coaching , Julia! This will certainly help you, to succeed in dressage.

The fifth rider in the younger group is Kylie Wright. She says this about her coach: “Even though she’s my mom, she takes at least an hour a day helping me with my dressage. She always pays more attention to my dressage riding than her own.” One more way that Kylie asserts is helpful is: “that she believes in me. There is never a time when she gives up on me, and she always encourages me to be a better rider.” Deserving praise from a lucky young rider!

I wish that I could have included all of the interesting and often poignant comments written by our scholarship entrants of 2015. It’s easy to see why they are all successful dressage riders; their ability to learn , to reflect upon and to describe the various facets of their training in dressage, will be a road map to their success.

My Five Essentials!

By Sandra Hobday

My 5 favorite horse things:

1. IRON ON PATCHES - for quick repairs to small blanket tears. Each patch is about 4" x 6" and you can buy them at Fabricland. Many blankets will be fine with just the quick iron-on but some 'playful' horses will require these to be stitched on for added strength.

2. PATTERNED WRAPS - These are fun because there are many patterns to choose from, plaids, dots, abstract as well as many colors which can be matched to your saddle pads. The best selections are usually available from on-line shopping. The pattern hides the dirt/sand and makes them easier to care for.

3. 1-2 CLEANING PUNCH – My horse sleeps laying down and because he is such a big guy, unfortunately he usually sleeps in his urine. Fiske's Cleaner is great for Guinny's belly hair that has soaked up this urine. Spray some on and work it in if the hairs are stuck together, then brush it out. Finish with a spray of Show Sheen as this helps to repel the urine, shavings and dust and makes the cleaning easier the next time.

4. SADDLE PAD CLEANING – Hair shampoo and a stiff brush are great for removing dirt and stains on saddle pads, especially the white ones! Soak the pad in about 2" of water in the bathtub, scrub until clean and then pop it in the washer.

5. TREATS – this is Guinny's #1 priority of course. I carry treats for him and his pasture pals. Treats can be complete feed chunks or a more expensive kind. I use them as rewards, for training and for playing games. Although the molasses/oats kind are the absolute favorite, I find that anything that come out of my pocket and from my hand means 'something special'.



My Five Essentials is a new feature that we hope to include in every newsletter. Thanks to Heather Thomas for agreeing to be our first contributor. If you are interested in taking part please contact Barb Wansbutter at mwansbutter@shaw.ca

New Tests for 2015!!!

Everyone is busy learning their new tests for the 2015 season and on...

The USEF has collaborated with the United States Dressage Federation to produce a new app – On The Levels. This app provided video examples of the tests with commentary from top trainers and judges. The mobile app features 31 videos - 18 videos of riders performing each test and 13 supplementary test tip videos. Looks like a great tool.

<https://www.onthelevels.com/>

\$20 annual membership



www.dressagewinnipeg.com