

2018 MARTIN COLLINS AUSTRALIAN DRESSAGE CHAMPIONSHIPS



COMPETITION REPORT

Sharni Radford
Chef d'Equipe
Tasmanian Dressage Team 2018

17-21 OCTOBER 2018



Preparations for the Australian Dressage Championships commenced in March 2018. A letter containing an EOI form and expense guide was emailed to DT members to assist with decision making. It was hoped after the successes of the 2017 Tasmanian Team that we would have had a much larger Team this year. This would have enabled us to take up Tasmanian Horse Transport's sponsorship offer. Eight expressions of interests were received and sadly due to personal reasons and horse injuries not everyone was able to travel and we departed for Boneo with a very experienced Team of 4.

FANTASTIC FOUR

The 2018 Tasmanian Dressage Team consisted of:
 Bert Gibson (Captain) - Small Tour
 Philippa Cassidy - PSG
 Amanda Parsons - Para Grade IV, Elementary
 Linda Smink - Novice, Elementary

As there was no Dressage Tasmania Ball this year where a silent auction is held, our fundraising was behind the eight ball. I would like to recognise Tania Hay, Michelle Milne and Linda Smink for their fundraising efforts over the winter months. Tania organised Training Days in the South, Michelle a wine fundraiser and Linda a successful Thermomix raffle. Team members I'm sure will be very grateful to the efforts of non-travelling Dressage Tas members.

Unlike last year there was no event at Boneo the weekend before which we could use as a warm up. Due to no competition in Tasmania over the winter months, some riders had one or two or no recent competitions

under their belt before Australian Champs. It would be amazing if we could come up with a format that allowed us to hold small competitions in the indoor arenas around the state during winter.

All horses, riders and support crew had arrived by Monday 15th of October. Boneo looked amazing as always and the new facilities between the main arena and show jumping arena are nearly complete. Boneo Park provided an online programme and each rider was able to print off their own personal schedule from the website.

Competition started with the Para and Pony Novice classes on Wednesday. It was a much larger than usual field in the Para Grade IV and Mandy placed 2nd in the Team Test with 67.167% and first in Individual Test with 69.268%.

WET WEATHER!

All riders competed on Thursday. Linda had two great tests scoring 64.828% in her first test, the 2.3 (27/34) and 65.333 (19/34) in the 2.2. Bert scored 61.853 (24/33) in the PSG. Pip and Hugo had a super PSG test with 64.912% placing 14th from 33 starters and placing first in the AOR. Mandy rode a beautiful Para IV Freestyle placing second on 69.90% and was overall Reserve Champion Para Grade IV on a countback.

Bert was the only Team member competing on Friday, competing in the Intermediate I. A very emotional and delighted Bert left the indoor arena with a score of 63.206% for 10th place from 22 riders. It was a super performance from Bert and Raf and was a joy to watch.

Saturday was the last day of competition for the Tasmanian riders. Yet another wet day (rained 5 out of 7 days) made things very difficult for a very tired Mandy and Princess in the 3.2. Princess decided at the very first halt that she had had enough and added her own artistic movements! Great riding from Mandy ensured that the test was completed with a score of 60.34%. A much improved test in the afternoon in slightly dryer conditions with 63.583% in the 3.3 placing 27th from 35 riders in the Elementary championship.

Linda started a little later and managed to miss the worst of the rain but the arenas were very wet. Linda and Fran scored 61.898% in the 3.2 and 63.833% in the 3.3 placing 23rd from 35 riders in the Elementary Championship.

Once again there was a large number of Dressage Tas members who officiated, volunteered and spectated. Organisers love the "can do" spirit that we bring to Nationals and all involved appreciate the time and effort you all put in.

To the Team, I would like to thank you all for making the trip such a pleasurable one. Hopefully Tasmania will have a larger Team for Sydney in 2019.

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