

Interschool Nationals, 2011 – Werribee, Vic

Tasmanian Team Report

A team of 31 riders and 34 horses travelled to Werribee for the recent National Interschool event which ran from the 4th – 7th October. Our riders ranged in age from 8yr old Bethany Hirst up to 18 yr olds, with competitions for both primary and secondary riders in Showman, Dressage, Showjumping and Eventing.

We had mixed fortune with our campaign over there, but I am sure it was a worthwhile and enjoyable experience for most.

Unfortunately, one of our riders, Olivia Whatley had a car accident before leaving Tasmania and had to withdraw. We wish Olivia a speedy recovery. Soon after I arrived we discovered Caitlyn had been very sick and was in hospital in Melbourne recovering from an unknown virus which also affected her legs. Fortunately, she was discharged on crutches on Wed night in time to ride in her Showman class on the Thurs – what a determined and brave girl!

Tuesday -Trot up. Fortunately all Tasmanian horses passed the trot up. Everyone looked great in their uniforms and the horses were a credit to their riders! We did have a moment when microchips didn't always match papers but after finding a second microchip all was well! Evidently there were quite a few horses over there which scanned 2 chips!!!

After the trot up we had an educational component with a talk from the Mounted Police, followed by an Amazing Race where mixed teams of riders from the various states got to know each other whilst doing various tasks. This took us up to the Opening Ceremony time and the BBQ tea. What a sight it was with the various teams in their bright coloured uniforms, and flags and banners! Our team was led by the Tassie Team captain Anna Clark who is one of our oldest riders and who was one of the earliest to join the Superschool programme in Tasmania.

Day 1 – We didn't have a great start to the competition as we had 3 things happen in quick succession. First of all, Chelsea Davis' mare LA Oasis did a nice dressage test but shortly after went to warm up for showjumping and was lame – out of the comp for good!, Next, Alysha's Imperial Jackpot did a lovely equitation round but on landing over the last jump, was immediately lame and after scanned by the vet was out also with a serious injury. Not long after that, Danielle Whatley was warming up for jumping when her horse put in an uncharacteristic buck and she hurt her ankle. After assuring paramedics, parents and myself that she was ok to ride, she did her 1.20m round (came 7th) and declared she had better go to hospital after all!! Yes, she had broken her ankle!

The rest of the day was disappointing for some -especially for the showjumpers as horses that normally perform well, were not firing. However, we did have some good results for Tasmania.

Abbie O'Brien on Rajah's Rave was 8th in the 3B dressage test and 4th in the 3D, and 6th overall in the Elementary.

Reegan Heathcote on Navika was 5th in both the AM7 and the A2 100cm jumping

Olivia Roberts, (one of our youngest members) on Snowdenvale Glamour Girl, came 2nd in the Dressage part of the 3 phase Primary showman.

After presentations for the day we had the welcome dinner which was a buffet. The food was great and very efficiently run, considering there were over 700 people attending.

Day 2 Competition continued with all disciplines, including the dressage phase of the eventing. Although the eventers did not feature high up in the placings after dressage, most were pleased with their tests. We had some good rounds in the showjumping and our showman and dressage riders also put in credible performances, including Caitlyn who was still recovering from her illness coming 13th. Sophie Mc Dermott came a credible equal 7th overall in the medium dressage - a great achievement seeing she was probably the youngest in it. Mykaela Briggs also did really well, coming 7th overall in the 120cm jumping.

Placegetters on the podium for Tasmania for this second day of competition were:

Reegan Heathcote on Navika Rosie Cheux finished 2nd in the equitation and then came 1st overall in the 100cm jumping! She received a lovely rug as well as her rosette and sash.

Anna Clarke on Camoola Max finished 5th in the 100cm equitation as well.

Laura Shepherd on Malibu Kahlua came 5th in the AM7 90cm.

Sophie Roles riding Transcend was 2nd in the A2 90cm with a super round.

After presentations we had team photos and then Team Tasmania escaped to a lovely restaurant near the grounds and had a great meal. Thanks to Trish Davies (nicknamed our Social Co-ordinator!) for organizing this for us all.

Day 3 Eventing cross country day and the completion of some of the primary events! All our eventers jumped well and apart from a few time faults went clear in the XC phase and had the occasional pole in the showjumping. Highest placegetter in the eventing for Tasmania was Sophie Roles in Intro coming 9th, with the rest of our riders placing from 13th – 19th in their various grades.

Placegetters :

Olivia Roberts on Snowdenvale Glamour Girl – equal 3rd in the 1D Primary Dressage and 5th overall!

Emily Hirst on Chubby Checker – 5th in the Primary 80cm showjumping equitation

The closing ceremony drew our time at Nationals to a close. This year Victoria did a wonderful job as the event was very well organized and efficiently run. We look forward to next year, however, we have a lot further to travel as the event will be held at Toowoomba in Queensland.

I would like to congratulate all our riders on their performances and for being such a great team. It was great to see them supporting and encouraging each other. Well done.

A special thanks to the team leaders for the disciplines – Erin Hunn for Eventing, Narelle Rowlandson for Showjumping, Sue McDermott for Dressage (and the Rechbergers) and to those who filled in for Sharni at the Showman – Fiona Mc Carthy and Sonia Roberts. I am sure all the riders appreciated their input and they made my job a lot less stressful!

Also thanks to those who volunteered to do Tassie's allocated jobs at the event - hopefully it was enjoyable! Thanks also to Judi Le Fevre for all her organization before the event – I know many hours went into the preparations!

Full results and some lovely photos can be seen on the Horse Deals website.