



PONY CLUB ASSOCIATION OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

Showjumping Development Squad

Welcome everyone to the first showjumping newsletter of the PCANT Show Jumping Development Squad. First of all we would like to give a huge thanks to all the parents and coaches that have made this squad possible! Now we would like to introduce you to our jumping squad members:

Kate Avery

Susan Glencross

Shalee Bird

Stephanie Glencross

Elisha Davies

Emily Palmer

Mickaela Butt

Taylor Gebert

Justine Burgess

Rian Smit

Shannon Florence

Grace Simmons

David Finch Clinic

Coaches Report

A fabulous weekend was had by all who attended the David Finch clinic sponsored by the Development Squad.

All members of the jump squad were present except for our regional riders. Hopefully we can get David Finch to Alice next year for a clinic or Kate up here for next years.

All 24 spots were filled with a combination of Development squad, Pony Club and Darwin Show Jumping Club members.

DAY 1 AM

The weekend started off a little rough for one of our riders when her horse decided that trot poles were far too boring and protested soon on departure with a buck that would match any rodeo bronc.

Unfortunately for Shalee it caught her off guard (as all of us were) and she thudded to the ground. But tough as nails our Shalee is that she got straight back on, re-broke her horse and from then on Milton was a dream horse. Unfortunately I hear that Shalee's luck didn't change for the weekend, having a few more communiqués with the turf during games training.

Elisha and Justine also had a great first lesson. Once Elisha realized that waterski-ing wasn't a horse sport, the exercises set by David were all achievable and done with style. David recognized the breeding of Justine's horse and commented on Polly's stature. I think he quite took a shine to Polly, as we all do!!

The second lesson had 3 development squad members. It was great to see the Glencross girls out. Susan on Archie who's been turned out for most of the year and Steph on her new mount Nix. Mickaela came out on her mare, who proved a handful but after a few gear changes and a few words from the master, the mare really started to relax and work well into her frame.

Grace and Shannon were in the next class, and both showed heaps of promise. Both these girls had attended the previous clinic with David as members of the jump club, so were both quick to pick up on the "diverse" lingo that David uses. Kate and Kirsty, members of Noonamah HPC, came out on their stock horse mounts and once they found their canters progressed well.

Lunch PM

After lunch it was our group of younger riders up. All the horses went beautifully for their riders. Abbey was particularly happy with Monty – the buckskin that she stole from her dad. She had to work hard but the rewards were well worth it. David commented on Isabelle's improvement in her riding and horse since the last clinic and thought that the Davies horses were "beauties". Perfect ponies to learn to show jump on!

Following this lesson were Pony Clubbers and 1 jump club member who are older but on green horses. Kate and Kirsty both came out on their new horses as well as Kelli on her horse Jim. Vanessa's horse, who has previously attended David's clinic, mastered the curved canter poles and had beautiful lift in his shoulder and worked well underneath. This exercise improves the horses' suppleness as well as getting them to elevate and work from behind. It was great to see Judy Sheldrake out looking at her dressage mare being ridden by her grand daughter Kirsty and commenting on how much the mare really loved it. Might be a jumping horse after all – YES!!!

Last lesson of the day was for the more experienced Development squad members. Taylor had a start she'd rather forget – coming a gutser on possibly the same square metre of turf that Shalee had previously named her own. Several minutes later – when we finally managed to catch Molly the Houdini, it was back on and into work for Taylor. Emily managed to get a nice canter established on Dusty who looked happy to be getting some air over poles.

Karen looked to be working well with Jessie. Simone was having a testing time with the new horse, which had a tendency to want to speed up coming into exercises.

The sun was drawing near the horizon, it was cooling down. First day down, one to go.

DAY 2 AM

Day two started with the older riders on their green horses, all who looked to have settled well and did the trot poles like experienced well seasoned mounts. A small course was set up with a few exercises from yesterday incorporated into the track. Horses and riders handled it well.

The course was deigned to determine how the rider would approach the first fence to gain maximum benefit of the course and curve to the second fence. From the second to the third the striding varied depending on the track taken, from fence three to four designed to get the rider thinking of leading legs and getting a square corner, hence a straight line on the the following fence. From four to five it was about looking and seeing the line of ride to ensure that fence five was set up and the approach was straight. Seven strides to fence 6 with a change of leg required after 6 so rider had to focus on bend, from fence 6 to 7 a tighter right hand turn, again focusing on your line and maintaining the canter through the corner, giving a half halt and connecting the horse ready for your next fence and then 6 strides to fence 8, establishing your correct lead over fence eight to fence 9 the one stride double, straight line out of your double and holding off on your turn until late onto fence ten. All of the exercises were completed in one way or another the previous day.

The second group out was our less experienced riders and whilst Alalia and Isabelle had a temporary brain freeze and starting playing the old running out tricks, David's reinforcing shouts soon unfroze the matter and all was back on track. Chloe had to work hard to maintain her canter and did a fabulous job on Morgan. Mel cantered around as per always with the biggest smile on her face. Toby the ever obliging pony. Monty did a fabulous job for Abbey but she had to work hard to ensure that she got her lines straight and her correct leads on the corners.

The next class ended up one rider short as Mickaela little mare had some swelling on her face. Archie lapped up the course – willing to keep going – I think he enjoys being out there. Nix was working well for Steph and once Steph's eyes and balance were not focused down the mare came onto her back end and worked better. Melissa's horse was keen as. David suggested he stay low for awhile until they establish a bit more control on the flat... He was keen, keen, keen.

Lunch PM

Thanks Bobbi for cooking up a storm.

First group after lunch was group one. The figure of eight exercise used to warm the horses up (do we need to do that up here??) and get the riders thinking about using their aids to establish the correct leads.

The course proved a great training exercise for all with many taking the opportunity to break it down into smaller bits to master certain parts each time. Taylor's mare started to relax at the base of jumps and give her a softer ride all round.

Next group out had a super time. I wasn't there to watch most of the lesson but I can usually tell from the toe of David's shout that it couldn't have been too bad. Grace got Luke traveling well and eliminating the short chip stride and thus grew in confidence over the weekend.

Last to go was Group 2. Less one rider due to Shalee stacking it at Games. It's been a long weekend for Elisha and Shalee having two day of riding in the heat. Hats off to you both. This group had a fabulous lesson. Justine was chuffed at Magic and his ability to pick up on an exercise really quickly. Ellie had a wonderful time on Polly who was really starting to relax her frame, loosen her shoulder and work well into the bridle from the back end. She was even getting an extra stride in between 7 and 8 without having to do too much. Good effort on such a big horse.

Thanks to all who helped set-up and pack up and who volunteered time during the day to pick up rails. I realize it was hot but I think everyone would agree it was definitely well worth it.

Some things to take away from the clinic and practice.

- Stay up, focus up – if you look down, your weight goes down and transfers that to the shoulder of your horse. Don't stare at the base of the jump
- Make your canter work, establish your canter, connect your horse prior to the fence.
- Work the horse from your leg to your hand
- Don't waterski. Your horse is up to 10 times heavier than you.
- Have a plan, think and see how you are going to achieve it.

Cassie Hall

Thankyou Cassie and Jane for doing all the behind the scenes work to make the clinic a success!!!



Jumping under lights Robbie Robbins Reserve

On the night of the 25th of October the development squad held a training session at Robbie Robbins Reserve. The turn out was quite low, only five riders attended: Taylor, Steph, Susan, Melissa and Justine. These few riders were lucky enough to get closely critiqued by Lisa Muttimer and Cassie Hall, Thanks! Many riders brought out new horses. Steph rode her new mount Nix, who performed very well showing great promise in show jumping.



Steph jumping Nix



It was also great to see Susan back on Archie! He behaved very well after being spelled for the year.

Melissa, who is not a squad member, was also out on her young horse. This combination showed excellent technique, and it is incredible to think this horse has only been off the track a couple of months.

Taylor was out on her new warmblood Bella who showed a natural eye for jumping!



Justine was having fun jumping Jack, who unfortunately has been out with a lung infection all year. It's good to see them back.

Thanks to Anne Coleman and Berrimah Riding Club for making this event possible and a big thanks goes to the instructors, Cassie and Lisa, who helped everyone with their jumping. THANKS!!!



Dates to Remember

PCANT AGM 22nd November

Trivia Night 22nd November

BRC jumping under lights 29th November
Christmas theme. Everyone Welcome

Watch out for news about our website

Darwin Show Jumping Club End of Year Dinner

It was good to see many of the PCANT Development Squad Members at the DSJC End of Year dinner! The mad hat competition which themed the night was hotly contested, with Shannon and Isabelle taking out the junior division and Simone winning the senior. The prizes for best hat were fought out over a cat walk! With the adults judging the under 18's and vice versa. Everyone was very sporting and obviously put a lot of effort into their hats! As the night progressed the DSJC awards started to be presented. Many of the development squad members won awards for their notable achievements throughout the year, WELL DONE!!!



Australian Prince Phillip Mounted Games Championships

On the 21st of September a team of five was chosen to represent the NT in the Prince Phillip Mounted Games Championships at the 2008 International Adelaide Horse Trials. Within this team are two Development Squad members Shalee Bird and Elisha Davies as well as three other pony club riders including Madelyn Farrington and Krissy Lambert from Katherine Horse and Pony Club. These riders teamed together with Jessica Pen Dennis from Darwin Horse and Pony Club, who conveniently is already down south! As a team they have been training every weekend for the past few months. This training has consisted of riding each others horses in games, mainly to establish a dynamic riding style, so that in Adelaide they have the ability and competence to ride unknown horses. Throughout the training sessions they have focused on teamwork which is essential in a games team, they must work together to complete the games effectively. With careful guidance from their coach Ros they have been able to significantly improve their technique and skills in all of the games, Thanks Ros! The training sessions have been challenging with some good laughs as always, and also tears as we work our way towards the national competition that comprises of 21 games in total. Postscript: The competition was held last weekend and the girls did great!!! They came 6th overall! The competition was tight and our girls had a blast showing their stuff! Well done!



Report Supplied by: Elisha Davies

Well done to Cassie, Justine and Ellie for their Newsletter contributions - also thanks to Cameron and Emily for the photos.

Don't forget to send us some photos from your recent Horse Riding escapades for future newsletters.