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SYDNEY'S WEEKEND OF EQUESTRIAN WORLD CUPS

7-9 May 2010

Including the HSBC FEI World Cup™ Eventing Qualifier
& Greater Sydney World Cup Jumping Qualifier

Olympic rider showdown at Sydney's Weekend of Equestrian World Cups

With just 10 days to go the pressure is mounting as riders and horses prepare for Sydney's Weekend of Equestrian World Cups - an eventing and jumping extravaganza this Mother's Day weekend at the Sydney International Equestrian Centre, Horsley Park, from 7th to 9th May 2010.

Australia's own gold and silver olympic medalists Wendy Schaeffer, Stuart Tinney, Megan Jones, Sonja Johnson and Shane Rose will be starring in the HSBC FEI World Cup Eventing™ Qualifier, a crucial selection event for the world equestrian games later this year in the US and a chance to gain vital points for HSBC FEI's World Cup™ Eventing series.

HSBC Australia's Head of Marketing, Darren Friedlander said, "HSBC is delighted to be the exclusive financial services partner to the FEI and the title sponsor of the HSBC FEI World Cup Eventing. Eventing is a sport that provides equal opportunity for men and women and one that is truly global in scale, and I wish all of the riders the best of luck in the qualifier."

Megan Jones, last year's winner is excited about the new prize money structure in place for the Series in 2010 where riders from around the world have an equal chance at the US\$180 000 which will be split between the top 15 riders. "I think it is the best thing the FEI has done with the HSBC World cup series. It makes it a true World Cup."

Jones, who won both the NZ and Australia rounds last year but missed out on the 2009 final due to quarantine restrictions began her 2010 campaign with a resounding victory at Kihikihi in New Zealand and has her sights set on the Sydney leg of the series to be held in May. Jones will start Sydney with 71 World Cup points ahead of her fellow Australian riders. She will make the 18 hour trip from South Australia with her two horses, Jester who is in amazing form and the Magic Millions yearling, Allofasudden.

Alongside the Eventers, Australia's show jumpers including triple Olympian Vicki Roycroft will be competing against top jumpers from around Australia in the Bates Saddles Greater Sydney World Cup Qualifier for their chance to join Chris Chugg in Kentucky for the World Equestrian Games in October 2010. Chugg won the Sydney World Cup in 2009 and secured his place in the final in Geneva, Switzerland, held just last weekend, where he proved his world standing finishing in 7th place.

More than 450 horses and over 270 riders will be competing over the 3 days of eventing and jumping action.

Other highlights of the event include dog agility and freestyle demonstrations on Friday evening and Bareback Show jumping on Saturday evening. For more information go to www.sydneyeventing.org or call 0418 216 364. Tickets can be purchased at the gate each day: adults \$15; children \$5; family of four \$30.



Event Overview

Eventing Entries: 300 horses and 215 riders

Jumping Entries: 95 horses and Over 50 riders

Young Horse Entries: 62

Riders are from across Australia (ACT – 7, WA - 4, SA - 2, VIC - 9, NSW - 174, QLD - 13) and New Zealand (3), Japan (1), India (1), and Finland (1)

What's on at the Weekend of World Cups 7 - 9 May 2010

Friday 7 May – Dressage & Young Eventing Horse Classes from (9 am to 9 pm)

The highlight for Friday will be the World Cup Eventing Dressage starting at 4.30 pm in the indoor arena supported by dog agility and freestyle dressage demonstrations

Saturday 8 May – Cross Country, Jumping and Young Event Horse Classes (9am – 8pm)

The highlights for Saturday are the World Cup Eventing Cross Country starting at 10.00 am, the 1.3m and 1.4m show jumping in the indoor arena starting at 3pm concluding with a special Bareback Show Jumping competition in the evening.

Sunday 9 May - Show Jumping (8am – 4.30 pm).

The highlights for Sunday are the World Cup Eventing Jumping starting at 12.00 noon followed by the World Cup Jumping Qualifier, comprising two exciting rounds.

The three phases of Eventing explained

The Olympic sport of Eventing (also known as Horse Trials) is the equestrian triathlon where the three phases of dressage, cross country and show jumping are completed by the same horse/rider combination. Eventing is a discipline at which Australia has excelled with numerous Olympic Medals. It is also one of the few sports where men and women compete on equal terms and the genuine amateur can compete against a World or Olympic Champion.

The HSBC FEI World Cup™ Eventing is a linked series which aims to unite all corners of the international Eventing community. It is organised annually as a series of three-star level CIC qualifiers. It began in August 2002 and the first Australian leg of the series was held in Sydney in 2009. The series is supported by HSBC. The HSBC FEI World Cup™ Eventing Series includes 12 events in 10 countries across three continents

Dressage The first test is Dressage, which comprises a set sequence of compulsory movements in an arena 20m wide and 60m long. At World Cup level the test is judged by three international judges who are looking for balance, rhythm, suppleness and most importantly, obedience of the horse and its' harmony with the rider.

Cross Country consists of the challenge of a course of more than 35 natural obstacles over approximately 4km in length that has to be jumped inside an optimum time. This phase is filled with thrills and spills.

Show Jumping is the final phase of the competition consisting of one round of jumping with a maximum time allowed, and the objective is to jump all the fences clear inside the time.

Other attractions at the Weekend of World Cups in Sydney

- Young Event Horse Classes & Young Jumping Horse Classes sponsored by Gwiahir Stud and ESP
- Dog Agility Demonstrations (Friday evening)
- Freestyle Dressage Demonstrations (Friday evening)
- Bareback Show Jumping Competition (Saturday evening)
- Shopping Village (open Friday, Saturday and Sunday)

A full event timetable can be found on www.sydneyeventing.org

Next Event

- Sydney International Three Day Event 26-29 August 2010

For more information visit www.sydneyeventing.org

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