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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

### Cross Country Day at Sydney's Weekend of World Cups

#### Megan is back in the lead!

Heath Ryan and Mystery Whisper led the field after dressage in the HSBC FEI World Cup Eventing™ Qualifier with a score of 39.40 penalties, just .60 penalties ahead of the 2009 champions Megan Jones and Kirby Park Irish Jester.

Marcia Williamson on the ex-racehorse Kalason was first out on the Cross country course designed by Wayne Copping. Williamson was in 16<sup>th</sup> place after dressage with a score of 56.70. Kalason jumped a clear round with 18.4 time penalties, showing the rest of the field the course was jumpable. The next rider out on course, Shane Rose, showed why he was the fastest cross country rider in the world at the 2008 Olympics, bringing the young Taurus home clear and with in time to remain on his dressage score of 55 penalties. Rose had four rides in the class but withdrew his highest placed horse, APH Moritz before cross country because he didn't feel the horse was quite right for the big track and wasn't prepared to risk him.

Megan Jones and Kirby Park Irish Jester won both the New Zealand and Sydney 2009 HSBC Qualifiers but were unable to attend the final in Poland due to quarantine restrictions. With the new ranking system in place for 2010 Jones is determined to claim her share of the US\$180,000 prize money on offer. The combination won the New Zealand Qualifier over Easter and Jones is determined to repeat her victory this weekend. Jester ate up the course finishing clear with 4 time penalties to put pressure on Ryan to keep the accelerator on.

Sydney 2000 Gold medallist Stuart Tinney, sitting in 9<sup>th</sup> place after dressage executed an almost perfect round on the big grey Vetori adding just 0.8 to his dressage score of 49.40. Ryan and Mystery Whisper looked fantastic on the course but time again proved to be an issue. In a post ride interview with Eventing legend Fiona Hughes Ryan blamed age as the reason for his 14 time penalties. Despite being slow Ryan was thrilled with Mystery Whisper calling him the best cross country horse in Australia.



Three riders were held on course whilst the ground crew made repairs to a later fence including Chris Burton and Holstein Park Leilani. This combination was stopped in zone 2 just before the HSBC brushes where they had a problem in 2009. A focused Burton was restarted after ten minutes and Leilani made no mistakes finishing clear and within the time adding nothing to their dressage score of 46.50.

Out of the twenty eight riders who started the HSBC FEI World Cup Eventing™ cross country course, twenty one combinations completed their round. Only one rider fell. The final standings going into tomorrow's show jumping sees Megan Jones and Kirby Parrish Jester in first place with no room for error in the show jumping. Chris Burton and Holstein Park Leilani are 2.50 penalties off the leader with a buffer of one rail to Stuart Tinney and Vetori.

Other results from the day put Clarke Johnstone on Kolosa Stud Secrets ahead of Tim Boland on Untouchable and Shane Rose on Star Am I in the Brighton Saddleworld CIC2\*. Rachel Lee and Baillilu are equal first with young rider George Sheridan and What an Ace in the Equestrian NSW1\*. Show Jumper Andrew Inglis won both the 1.20m and 1.30m, Junior rider James Arkins won the 1.20m junior division on Oaks Sonata and Toni Scattergood was the only clear round in the 1.30m young rider division. The 1.40m World Cup warm up class was won by Billy Raymond on Levitation NZPH and the Young Jumping Horse Classes were won by 4 year old Copabella Vigil ridden by Jamie Kermond, 5 year Halloween ridden by Natasha Coxon and 7 year old Mr Fugitive ridden by Vicki Brighton.

The highlight of the evening was the barback show jump competition. Six riders began jumping at 1.10m. Each clear round progressed and in the end Rhys Stone on a 4 year old chestnut mare out jumped Clint Beresford on Belcam Atlantic clearing a 1.70m oxer in front of a huge crowd.

Day three of competition begins at 8am with show jumping in three arenas. The World Cup Eventers are set to try and catch Megan, again, at 12:30pm. The World Cup show jumpers will follow for an afternoon filled with spectacular action.



## Event Overview

Eventing Entries: 300 horses and 215 riders

Jumping Entries: 95 horses and 53 riders

Young Horse Entries: 62

Riders from: Australia (ACT - 7, WA - 4, SA - 2, VIC - 9, NSW - 174, QLD - 13), 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 (9 am – 8 pm)

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 (8 am – 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 Triathlon) 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 4 km 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](http://www.sydneyeventing.org)

## Next Event

- Sydney International Three Day Event 26-29 August 2010

For more information visit [www.sydneyeventing.org](http://www.sydneyeventing.org)

All Media enquiries welcome. Please contact Rachel Smith on 0412 963 893 or [rachel.smith@sydneyeventing.org](mailto:rachel.smith@sydneyeventing.org)

