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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

### Burton beats the rest of the best at Sydney's World Cup

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 2009 champions Megan Jones and Kirby Park Irish Jester. Ryan was unable to compete at the World Cup in 2009 after suffering a stroke at a One Day Event prior to the inaugural qualifier. His 2010 dressage test scored 73.25% proving that he was well and truly back to form.

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 within 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. One of his other rides, Koko Black was also clear cross country. Though there were few problems negotiating the fences, just four riders

managed to record a clear round within the time.

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 could claim a share of the US\$180 000 prize money on offer. This combination won the 2010 New Zealand qualifier held over Easter and Jones was determined to repeat her victory in Sydney. Jester ate up the cross country course finishing clear with 4 time penalties putting pressure on Ryan to come out with 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 Vettori adding just 0.8 to his dressage score of 49.40.



Ryan and Mystery Whisper looked fantastic out on 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 including Chris Burton and Holstein Park Leilani were held on course whilst the ground crew made repairs to a later fence. 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 a ten minute hold up and Leilani made no mistakes through the difficult line of brushes, finishing clear 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, Kevin McNab from Queensland fell. The final standings going into the show jumping had Megan Jones and Kirby Park Irish Jester in first place with no room for error. Chris Burton and Holstein Park Leilani were just 2.5 penalties off the leader with a buffer of one rail to Stuart Tinney and Vettori.

Day three of competition began at 8am with show jumping in three arenas at the Sydney Olympic venue. Cassie Lowe and Bentleigh Gambler were the first World Cup Eventing combination into the arena. The combination completed a perfect round in front of an impressive crowd. The next competitors knocked a number of rails until Emily Anker and Keniski recorded the second clear round moving them up the placings to finish in 15th out of 31 starters.

The original leader after dressage, Heath Ryan, had moved into 7th place with a slow cross country round on Mystery Whisper. A stop at the big combination added four jumping penalties and 6 time penalties to their score moving them into 9th place overall. Clarke Johnstone from New Zealand was the third clear round on the course moving them up from 6th place.

Chris Burton remained cool and focused as he entered the indoor arena on Holstein Park Leilani at the Sydney International Equestrian Centre this afternoon for the final phase of the HSBC Eventing World Cup. Less than a rail separated Chris from the leader Megan Jones. Despite knowing Megan's faultless ability to jump clear under pressure, Chris was able to pilot Jean Findlay's chestnut mare around the John Vallance track without penalty giving Megan no room for error. An unusual late rail for Jester brought a loud cheer from the crowd as they realised the local favourite had moved into first place. Clarke Johnstone from New Zealand was third on Orient Express and Sonja Johnson was fourth and fifth on Ringwould Jaguar and Parkiarrup Illicit Liasion. Full results on The Sydney Eventing Website

Clarke Johnstone on Kolaora Stud Secrets convincingly won the Brighton Saddlewordl CIC 2\* at Sydney's Weekend of World Cups with a score of 50.80. Followed by Tim Boland on Untouchable and Shane Rose on Sharmayne Spencer's Star Am I. All three riders show jumped clear to finish in their cross country positions where time was an influencing factor with Clarke Johnstone the fastest over the course.

The Equestrian NSW CIC 1\* was won by Judith Clarke and Diablito with a double clear round of show jumping and cross country ahead of Emma Dougall and Belcam Bear. Katie Abbot at Three Cheers was crowned the Oaks Gates Rising Star as the highest placed rider who had not competed at 1\* level prior to 2010.

The three Preliminary Classes were won by Emma Armstrong on Hass, Emma Mason on Poker Face and Sam Lyle on Grandious. The winner of the 6 year old Young Event Horse class Oaks Cordelia completed her first ever event in 15th place, a credible effort for a purpose bred horse.

The show jumping classes were equally as exciting. Jamie Kermond repeated his performance from the Copabella Classic Grand Prix where he won the Grand Prix on Valhlla III. Kermond was the only rider to go double clear, this time on his second horse Clothago.

The organising committee is grateful for the support sponsors and volunteers provide towards the event. Over 200 volunteers worked to provide the draws, keep the rings moving through, the parking organised and the results updating live.



## 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 (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](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)

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