

Report: King River "Harbour News" O.D.E. (29 February 2004)

With the grounds basked in sunshine, the King River Club hosted the first horse trials event in the Great Southern this season last weekend. Harbour News again sponsored the event as it has done over the past years, and this year the event was as popular with 60 riders, many travelling from Kojonup and Mt Barker, to take part in the competition.

Classes ranged from B-Grade right through to E-Grade Leading Rein, and each class was keenly contested.

In the B-Grade competition, Chanelle Condren and Grey Tide just shaded the eventual winner Dylan Fisher and Regal Heights after the dressage phase. The cross-country section was next with fences not previously used at this level – Amanda's Ditch & the Chester Pass Road Arrowhead, proved extremely influential accounting for two eliminations and a number of refusals. Only Dylan Fisher, Rosie Outhwaite (Windrush Rhapsody) and Dianna Mitchell (Bolero) escaped with no jumping penalties. The showjumping phase saw many rails fall and one elimination, with Dylan Fisher jumping clear to win well. Dianna Mitchell also put in an excellent clear showjumping round to finish a very good second, with Amy Mills and Prevail grabbing third place.

The C-Grade competition was divided into two classes – 14 years & over and 13 years & under. After the dressage phase in the senior section, Jackie Sept (Windrush Symphony) and Renae Walker (Pantomime Promenade) shared the honours with a solid score of 55.8 each. In the cross-country phase, while the small ditch was again making its presence felt with two eliminations, and the sunken road and drop were bringing about a number of refusals, both Sept and Walker rode confidently, with Jackie producing a double clear round, and Renae incurring 2.4 time penalties. This proved to be the difference between the two riders at the end of the day, with both producing clear rounds in the showjumping.

At the end of this competition, Jackie had just edged out Renae, with Dawn Nation (Serenade) also incurring no jumping penalties, finishing third.

The C-Grade junior section looked like being a very close competition following the dressage phase, with only 7.8 points separating the five riders. As in the senior section, two riders shared the lead on the same score – Kate Hill on Champagne Magnum and Becky Ladner on Penleigh's Genesis on a score of 60.0 from Emma Panizza (Chuckles) sitting in third place on 61.8. Becky Ladner then produced an excellent double clear cross-country round to take the outright lead from her sister Tess (Harlequin) who also rode a great cross-country phase. In the showjumping, Becky again rode clear to finish on her dressage score and win the class from Emma Panizza who had incurred no jumping penalties on cross-country, but took one rail in the showjumping, with Bronte Walker (Ruby Carousel) a gallant third.

As with the C-Grade, the D-Grade was also divided. In the senior section (14 years & over) Karen Mayfield and the classy Mosel Denika produced the best dressage test of the day to finish this phase on a remarkable 30.6 penalties, with her nearest rivals, Ebony Kinnane (Quality Street) and Tracey Matthews (Tallarook Master) sharing second place on 46.2. The cross-country phase proved very influential in the final placings with the coops, rock wall and palisade having numerous refusals. The Mayfield/Mosel Denika combination really attacked the challenging course to go double clear and consolidate their lead. Quality Street and Tallarook Master each had one refusal but still retained joint second place, with Kim Porter and Louie who had no jumping penalties in hot pursuit.

With only 4 penalties in the showjumping, Mayfield and Mosel Denika easily won the class from Porter and Louie who continued their good form and jumped clear in the showjumping and Michelle Trott and Rockview Corrilyn getting up for third place.

The junior section witnessed another great dressage test with Clare Beech and Balmoral Sherwood recording a fantastic 36.0 penalties to lead the class from Tiarne Pearce and Stirling Silver (49.2) and Julia Hensel and Miriah Willow (51.0). The cross-country produced few demons for the riders in the class. While the Hensel/Miriah Willow combination blitzed the course only to incur time penalties for going 'too fast', the other riders rode cautiously, but all incurred time penalties for exceeding the optimum time, although Beech was only one second over, and received only .4 of a penalty. Two rails in total fell during the showjumping phase, with Clare Beech and Balmoral Sherwood winning the class on 36.4 from Sarah Kennedy and

Cinnamon Girl (62.8) with only 4 time penalties in cross-country and clear showjumping in second and Julia Hensel and Miriah Willow (69.8) in third.

While individual riders had dominated the D-Grade, the E-Grade was a much more even affair, with Ashton James (Prince) leading on 53.13, from Thomas Moroney (Barnaby) on 54.37 and Amelia Radford (Beelo Bi Sheila) and Alana Perkins (Mandy) both on 57.49. Although having one refusal at the rock wall, James rode confidently around the cross-country with only 6 more time penalties and a clear showjumping round to win the class from Tamara McGuinniss (Montana) who had produced a great clear cross-country round and showjumping to move up the places into second place, and Alana Perkins (Mandy) with only time penalties in the showjumping to finish 3rd.

Although three riders lined up in the leading rein class, with Mikayla Radford and Balmoral Zora leading well after the dressage phase, the cross-country and showjumping were to take their toll, with none of the competitors completing the class.

During the presentations at the conclusion of the overall competition, special thanks was paid to the support given by Harbour News, pointing out that without this support the event may not be possible, and urging all competitors to support the Club's sponsors.