

Thank You From the President

Well, we have come to the end of another successful eventing season here on PEI. I would like to thank everyone who volunteered of their time and energy to make it all happen; there really are too many people to list everyone. I would also like to thank the competitors for getting out there. These two groups are what we need to make the season fun and enjoyable. So, thank you all!

The Season in Review

It all started with a great day in May when we all got together to build new cross country jumps and repair old ones, have some food and get excited about the clinics and horse trials to come. A pre-training/training pen was built in the back field as well as a few other fences around the course to challenge us all. Thank you to Ian Dohoo for organizing the clinic again this year. In June we got to practice the new jumps with Alexandra Beaton in the cross country jumping clinic. There were a wide range of riders from all over the Maritimes to get prepared for the Summer Horse Trial a short two weeks later. Thank you Laura Dear for putting that together.

The Strathgartney Summer Horse Trial was very successful with 39 entries. Thanks to organizer Donna Allen, it went very smoothly even with it being the first HT with the new format. The review from the technical delegate, Michael Gallagher, was positive and he stated that it was the first time that he didn't have any comments on how to improve it. There were 32 entries at the Strathgartney Fall Horse Trial which is still plenty. There were new riders from New Brunswick that were pleased with the course and are excited about coming back next year. Thanks Laura Dear for your first effort at organizing a horse trial. Both HT's had positive reviews from the technical delegates with minor issues to improve upon. Hats off to Jennifer Brown and Linda MacPhail (and Matthew MacPhail) for the great secretary job they did this year!

Strathgartney Hosts Maritime Levy Dollars Working Clinic

Strathgartney Equestrian Park was the facility chosen to host the Maritime Levy Dollars Working Clinic August 9 and 10. This two day clinic provided high calibre instruction at very low cost for more experienced Maritime riders. The clinic was part of the Levy Dollars Working program organized by Canadian Eventing's Athlete Development Committee. Each competitor in a Horse Trial in Canada now pays a \$7 levy which is used to support Canadian Eventing's elite international calibre horses and riders. In return, these riders have agreed to donate their time, free of charge, as clinicians in Levy Dollars Working clinics throughout the country.

Clinician Garry Roque of Caledon Ontario came to PEI to instruct riders from all 3 Maritime provinces who have competed at or above the pretraining level. By all accounts the weekend was a great success. "I found him very relaxing, encouraging and supportive" commented New Brunswick rider Lori Leach. "He moved us along confidently. I would love to work with him again in the future".

Clinic organizer Susan Dohoo was also very pleased with the weekend. "We would all like to

thank Garry" she said, "for donating his time free of charge as part of this excellent program which has been developed by Canadian Eventing. He worked very hard, and was very effective. The riders came away having accomplished more than they expected".

Strathgartney Update

Phase two of the rejuvenation of Strathgartney Equestrian Park is nearing completion. The IHC Strathgartney Committee successfully raised over \$17,000 from the Sir James Dunn Foundation of New Brunswick, the PEI Departments of Community and Cultural Affairs, Technology and Development, as well as Agriculture and Forestry to support this phase of the work.

As a result of these efforts there is a new storage shed in place, a new set of stadium jumps has been constructed, a new dressage ring is ready for staining next spring, the visitor's parking area has been completed, bleachers have been ordered and there may be enough money for a sound system as well. The effort involved has been substantial. Many thanks to Linda MacPhail, Jennifer Brown, Jackie Waddell, Angie MacDonald, Kevin Laughlin, Ian Dohoo and Susan Dohoo for making these improvements a reality. The Equestrian Park has now been completely transformed into a safe and well designed facility for schooling, pleasure riding and competing.

In the true spirit of "If you build it they will come", there were 16 bookings for Strathgartney in 2003, including the Tantramar Pony Club of Nova Scotia and a Regional Eventing Clinic attended by riders from all three Maritime provinces. Compare this to one booking for the 1999 season.

Strathgartney also weathered tropical storm Juan thanks to the storm preparations done by Jackie and Kevin. Although there are a couple of big poplars down on the cross country course, the new buildings all survived unscathed.

Membership and Insurance

Island Horse Council changed its constitution this year so as to accommodate a more comprehensive and appropriate insurance policy for equine activities. What does this mean to us? Before, you would get your insurance through IHC when you paid your HTPEI dues; now you join IHC separately from HTPEI and get your horse liability insurance at that time. You must be a member of IHC to be an active member of HTPEI. The IHC form will be mailed to you soon and will have all the pertinent information. Attached to this newsletter is the HTPEI membership form and we would like to have memberships in to us by January 1, 2004. The deadline for IHC memberships has changed to November 30, 2003, so it may be good to put the two in the mail at the same time.

Year End Meetings

Horse Trials PEI will be having it's annual general meeting on Friday the 14th of November at 7 p.m. at the AVC faculty lounge. This is where we look at the last season and plan for the next. This is your association and it needs your input. There are going to be some spots to fill: Jennifer Brown will be moving away to do a PhD, Laura Dear will be stepping down as president because she and her husband are expecting a baby towards the end of March and Julie Christie may be

leaving us as she has graduated with a Masters of Science in Equine Welfare and is looking for greener pastures. Good luck to them in all they hope for.

The Island Horse Council Awards Night will be held on November 22 at the West Royalty Community Centre with the reception at 6:30 and the presentations at 7:30. This awards night is for all club members so they can be recognized in front of their peers for their accomplishments and a job well done over the show season. Everyone is encouraged to attend to show support for our members as well as the members of other IHC member clubs. Tickets are \$7 each and can be purchased from Laura Dear. She can be reached via email at wgoodwin@islandtelecom.com or by phone at 566-4699.