

Horse Trials PEI Newsletter - Spring 2001

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We are now Horse Trials PEI

Same organization, new name. In keeping with the remainder of the provincial associations under the national umbrella of Horse Trials Canada, we decided at our AGM in February to change the name of our association to Horse Trials PEI (HTPEI). Next thing we need to do is design a logo for our association!

Four Directors Join HTPEI for 2001

Many thanks to Elsie and Janet Acorn, Sara MacPhail and Jeannie Matheson who were elected as new directors for HTPEI at the AGM. The new thoughts and energy they bring will help the returning executive and directors to plan another successful season this year.

Combined Test Scheduled for Saturday May 19

So what is a Combined Test anyway? Think Horse Trial without the cross country phase and you have it. At the AGM we decided to hold a Combined Test as a schooling show fund raiser this year. We will be working with PEI CADORA to hold the Combined Test at the same time as CADORA's schooling dressage show at Venture Stables, Freetown. Michael Gallagher will be stadium and dressage judge for the day. Having this early in the season will give everyone a chance to try out their dressage test for the season. Following a stadium round at the appropriate height for your division, the winners for each division (entry, starter, pretraining, training, preliminary) will be based on the cumulative score for dressage and stadium. Anyone who is going to jump must do a dressage test....that's what makes it a Combined Test. Dressage riders who do not wish to jump are welcome to come and do their dressage test. Then, following the Combined Test there will be stadium rounds for people to enter if you would like a bit more

practice over courses. Sounds like a great way to start the season for dressage riders, eventers, pony club members and hunter/jumpers alike. Then on Sunday it's off to Strathgartney for spring repair work and jump construction. Show secretary Theresa Mellish ktm.mellish@pei.sympatico.ca, 838-4032.

Video Night Friday April 6, 7:00pm, AVC Faculty Lounge

Badminton, one of the premiere CCI**** three day events, is cancelled this year due to the foot and mouth disease outbreak in England. But we can watch the 1996 Badminton on a big screen in the AVC faculty lounge Friday April 6 at 7:00pm. This is a final get together before the clinics and shows get into full swing. Admission is free, and everyone is welcome. We'll provide pop and popcorn. Come out and enjoy!

New Members, New Horses, and a Farewell

Welcome to new members Bethany Smith and Mandy MacDougall. We are looking forward to seeing you at our activities over the next few months. In addition, some of our members from last year are riding new horses and ponies. Chris Campbell will be out with her young Arab/Dutch Warmblood mare Echo this year. Emily Coffin is preparing for the season with Taylor, her new Thoroughbred mare. Kim Saville and Mike will be familiar faces, but we will also see Nicole Anstey on Mike this year, since she has been working with him this winter. Elsie Acorn has been working with Penni, owned by Ken and Theresa Mellish. Jeannie Matheson is still on the lookout for a new horse, and I am sure I have missed some of the new partnerships which have been developing since last season. My apologies to those I have inadvertently left out.

We also have to say farewell to Michelle Smith and Keydey as they both will be moving to Ontario. It is hard to imagine a Horse Trial at Strathgartney without Michelle there. She has been a long time supporter of eventing on PEI, even during the lean years when membership and competitors declined. Michelle never wavered in her commitment to and enjoyment of this sport. She will be missed, but we wish her the best with her new job, and success at the Horse Trials in Ontario. Watch for her sisters Deborah and Bethany carrying on with the family tradition at Strathgartney this season.

HTPEI Year End Awards Calculations, 2001

Division Champions, as well as High Point Junior and Senior for the 2001 season will be calculated as follows:

Eligible riders must be members of HTPEI. Points will be awarded to horse/rider combinations. Points obtained at each of the Strathgartney Horse Trials will be awarded as follows:

2 to 10 entries: 1st 6 points, 2nd 4 points, 3rd 3 points, 4th 2 points, 5th 1 point

11 to 15 entries: 1st 8 points, 2nd 6 points, 3rd 5 points, 4th 4 points 5th 3 points, 6th 2 points, 7th 1 pt

over 15 entries: 1st 10, 2nd 8, 3rd 7, 4th 6, 5th 5, 6th 4, 7th 3, 8th 2, 9th 1

Horse/rider combinations will receive 1 bonus point for each out of province Horse Trial they attend. It is up to individual riders to notify the score keeper (Ian Dohoo) if they attend off Island Horse Trials. In keeping with CEF regulations, points earned at the Atlantic Canadian Eventing Championship will be included in year end calculations. Points for the Championship will be awarded as described above.

For Sale/Lease

17" Crosby Hunterdon close contact saddle. Very good condition and comfortable. Asking \$600. Tracey Murphy 368-5937 (9-5), tsmurphy@gov.pe.ca

Body protector for sale. Contact Lily Robertson 621-0525

"Reno", 15.2 HH morgan/quarter horse gelding. 8 yr old. Great on trails, very reliable. Does walk, trot canter well, has done a bit of jumping. Asking \$2500. Large 2 horse bumper horse trailer. Asking \$2800. Contact Tara Huestis 436-7300.

"Jes Artix F Shawnee", 5 yr old Canadian gelding, black, reg'd, 16hh. Great disposition and movement, bold and forward. Basic WTC and some trail riding. Lease, half lease or sale. Asking \$4,500. Lee Dawson 964-2363

"April Winds", reg'd 15/16th Arabian mare out of Silver Winds by FF Nikkoro. 13 yr old, 15hh, blood bay. Proven broodmare. Nice disposition, good manners. \$2,000. Lee Dawson 964-2363.

Attention all Volunteers

(that's just about all of us....)

Would you like to win a gift certificate for a 1 hour massage by Registered Massage Therapist Laura Dear? Foolish question, I know! Laura has very generously donated a one hour massage for the volunteer award for this year. Any time you volunteer this year, at clinics, Horse Trials, organizing something, whatever, make sure you sign the volunteer list which the organizer for the day will have on hand. The names will be kept for a draw at the autumn Horse Trial. The more you volunteer, the more often your name goes in for the draw, and the better your chances to win. Thank you Laura for helping HTPEI say thank you to all our fantastic volunteers.

2001 Membership in HTPEI

If you have not joined HTPEI this year, contact Lana Wright, 626-3095 or email lwright@deltaware.com.

If you have completed your form, you can mail it to Lana at PO Box 1541 Charlottetown PEI C1A 7N3. Remember, we submit insurance money to the Island Horse Council mid April. You will not be able to purchase IHC insurance through us after that date. For the many who have already joined....thanks for your continued support. We will work hard to provide another first class eventing season for our members.

Jump Building Clinic May 20 at Strathgartney

Come one, come all!!! Our jump building clinic with Michael Gallagher will be Sunday of the long May weekend this year, after the Combined Test. We will be building a water jump and corner fence, as well as doing any necessary repairs following winter damage. This will not be the gruelling effort we all went through last year. Instead, we plan to begin around 9:30, and end by 4 pm. Please plan to be there, chain saws in hand! We expect to have painting for those of us who will not be moving telephone poles around. Chris has built filler for our stadium jumps this winter, so we will have paint and brushes available. There will be something for everyone to do as we prepare for the clinic June 9 and Horse Trials June 23 and Sept 15.

Winter Dreams - Tales of the Event Horse in Winter

By: Rob Stevenson
rssteven@hotmail.com

"In April, the winter ceased abruptly. The snow ran down into Black Bear Lake scarcely tarrying for the early golfers to brave the season with red and black balls. Without elation, without an interval of moist glory, the cold was gone." (F. Scott Fitzgerald "Winter Dreams" Tales of the Jazz Age 1922)

Maybe that is why I don't golf much. For me there is always that day --usually while hacking - where the wind blows, and for the first time in months, the bite is gone. I take a few moments to think back over the winter, and wonder how we managed to ride at all through the cold and the storms. Then, I look ahead, knowing that winter is gone for another eight months, to riding outside, clinics, travel, shows, time with friends - the true pleasure of the sport. For me, there is much elation at such times!

There are a number of myths that plague the year-round management of the event horse. One of these would be the misconception that you cannot get much done in the winter months. Related to this is the belief that the event horse needs a couple of months off every year. Certainly, the

winter months can be less pleasant for riding. In the real world, most of us are relegated to the indoors and to riding after dark. Ice is a continual threat. Nonetheless, there is a way to make it work, at least within reason. Event horses that winter in the north can be expected to start their competitive season with a few dressage and jumper shows in May and June. The event season can then begin in June. This plan leaves time for four to six outings throughout the summer, and more experienced horses and riders might look to a three day in September or October. Less experienced riders may also want to consider moving up a level around that time.

Even with that rough outline, one can begin to see the importance of identifying goals and formulating a plan well ahead of time. A set of goals is something that should be developed first in your brain and then on paper with a calendar at hand. Then you need to sit down with your coach (and maybe your parents or spouse) and decide what is reasonable. And then you need a plan...

Many of you have, perhaps, heard me speak of planning in the past. It is of great importance, particularly when considering event horses. Eventing incorporates too many dueling forces to expect it all to work out blindly. Dressage, showjumping, conditioning, cross country schooling, competitions, and, above all else, keeping the horse sound can often lead to frustration if there is no plan in place through the winter.

There are certain things that I do not work on in the summer. There simply is not enough time (for more on this, visit my friend and Olympic coach Jules Nyssen speaking of this very point on www.useventhorse.com: "Burns brushes up on dressage"). Certain items are indeed 'winter work'. For example, more experienced horses and riders might practice flying changes, while others might focus on a horse's jumping technique. In the throws of the season, there is little time for back-to-basics. Instead the attitude becomes 'Go with what you've got.'

Rarely is it indicated to give an event horse months off in the winter (the exception would be injury). There was a time when top level horses were turned out to pasture in early November after the fall three-day, and started back after Christmas. The sport has changed a great deal since then, and so has the approach to the winter months. A truly fit horse will require a certain period of hacking off at the end of a long season. This will allow for some mellowing and this gives aches and minor strains a chance to heal. This would entail hacking for an hour three to four times per week, with maybe some light flatwork. Depending on the facilities, it might be worth trying a couple of weeks of turn-out, but then it should be back to the program.

Remember, this would be taking place in late November, early December. Starting the horse back would again involve hacking. Consider starting with forty-five minutes and gradually adding time, hills and some trotting. By Christmas, the break from work may enable us to spend a little more time at the barn. This might also be a good time to clip (knowing that hairy horses will sweat an inordinate amount in the months ahead). Several weeks of flat work and, eventually, gymnastic jumping can be introduced.

By the time jumping is introduced, the horse will have been back in work a good two months. They will be well legged-up, fresh and ready to go. A weekly schedule for the end of January might include two to three days of flatwork, one day of jumping and one to two days of hacking.

The horses may only be ridden four to five times per week, and this would be fine, as long as it is accounted for in the plan. If you are riding only four days a week, look at your horse's schedule in ten-day increments rather than by the week. Try and get included in ten days what I have outlined for seven.

If you don't have an arena, try shipping to one for a day every two weeks. If you have excellent hacking - perhaps on quiet roads or groomed trails - then take advantage of the opportunity, perhaps doing your flatwork in a straight line. Each person's situation will be different, and you need to develop a system that works in your home environment.

One last note for the dead of winter. Think ahead now to what new equipment or clothing you might need for the season ahead. Spread out your spending so that you are not burdening your operating budget with large acquisitions through the summer months. Of course, this would take place after having renewed your memberships (CEF, HTPEI amidst others).

~Rob Stevenson is an NCCP level II coach (Eventing). He most recently rode for Canada at the Barcelona Olympics in 1992, where he finished 22nd (top placed Canadian) with his horse, Risky Business. Prior to that, Rob had placed second at the Fair Hill CCI in 1991, third at the North American Young Riders' Championships in 1989, and first in the Canadian Young Riders' Championships in 1988.

Since returning to school in 1993, Rob has balanced competition at the Advanced level (as late as 1996) with coaching a number of adults and juniors in the Maritime provinces. His family runs an event at Foshay Farms in Lower Jemseg, NB, and this facility provides the home base for his equestrian endeavors.

Rob graduated from Dalhousie Medical School in Halifax, NS in the spring of 2000. Currently he is completing a two year residency in rural family practice at the Dr. Everett Chalmers Hospital in his hometown of Fredericton.

Though he is not actively campaigning a horse of his own at this time, he plans to return to the show ring in the next year once the duties of residency subside. In the interim, he is focused on the establishment of an eventing system in the Maritime provinces, which he hopes will enable other riders from the region to compete at the preliminary three-day level and beyond.

Great Prizes for 2001 Horse Trials

Thanks to the continued support of our fantastic sponsors, we will be able to offer \$100 prize money for each division in both of our Horse Trials (June 23, Sept 15). In addition, we will have coolers for Best Score Junior. We are working on coolers for Best Score Senior as well. Keep your fingers crossed! We also have a great array of specialty prizes to offer: most senior rider, most junior rider, competitor traveling from furthest distance, best conditioned horse or pony, good sport award, best score pony club member, closest to optimum time.

Island Horse Council Committed to Rejuvenation of Strathgartney

The IHC voted at the March meeting to support a proposal put forward by the IHC Strathgartney Committee to rejuvenate the facilities at Strathgartney Equestrian Park. This support now gives the committee the mandate to submit funding proposals to various governmental and non-governmental agencies and organizations to carry out the much needed improvements to the site. We will keep you informed as the plans progress. Thanks to committee members for their hard work, and to IHC for it's support of this worthwhile effort which will be of benefit to Island riders.

Horses at Entry and Starter Level May Now Compete Twice

HTPEI directors have agreed that horses ridden only in the entry and starter divisions may compete twice at each Strathgartney Horse Trial with 2 different riders. This is to provide the opportunity for more riders to experience the sport for the first time, and to accommodate those who may be sharing the use of a horse or pony over a season. Both riders are expected to have been coached with the shared mount over previous months. This is not designed for last minute arrangements. We hope that this meets the needs of riders who would like an introduction to eventing, but at the present time are sharing a horse or pony.

Welcome Pony Club Tetrathletes!

The Strathgartney Summer Horse Trial contributes the ridden component of the 2001 Regional Pony Club Tetrathlon competition. Pony Club members from the NS/Nfld region and the NB/PEI region will do the riding component of the competition June 23 as competitors in the Horse Trial, and complete the running, shooting and swimming phases in Sackville June 24. Best of luck to all you energetic people!

2001 Rule Changes Summary

The following is a quick outline of some rule changes for 2001. Please read your rule book thoroughly when it arrives. There are also other changes concerning officials and their duties that everyone should be familiar with.

- As per the FEI - article 4.2 becomes "Abuse of Horses and Dangerous Riding", adding dangerous riding to the list of actions which may be penalized by disqualification and will be reported to the CEF. The examples now read:

- Excessive pressing of an exhausted horse
- Riding an obviously lame horse
- Rapping
- Excessive use of whip and/or spurs
- Abuse of a horse
- Dangerous riding

- Medical armbands will be randomly checked throughout the competition day

- Although not a new rule, this will be enforced: Chaps or half chaps may not be worn

- 10 seconds will be added to your cross country time if you anticipate the start
- For refusals: A horse is considered to have refused if it stops in front of the obstacle or element to be jumped. In other words, don't try to kick your horse over the fence as he has already scored a refusal. This has come from the FEI Safety Committee which has determined accidents have occurred because riders kept kicking when it was physically impossible for the horse to jump from that position and a fall resulted.
- In stadium Jumping, the Ground Jury (or judge) has the discretion to eliminate the competitor if he/she does not enter the arena immediately when their number is called.
- Combined Tests (ie. competitions holding only the dressage and stadium phases) are now included in our rule book
- Combined Divisions are now permitted. The combinations permitted are specified in the Rule Book.
- There will be more CEF stewards in use at events now. They will be policing mainly the warmup areas.
- Riding in or around any dressage arena or jumping arena prior to or during the competition results in disqualification
- You may not jump an obstacle flagged for another division during cross country unless permission is requested the day before the competition and is granted by the TD/ground Jury
- There is now a penalty for excessive speed at Training and Preliminary levels
- Don't wear your cellular phone because it is not permitted
- You have 45 seconds to start your stadium round after the bell/whistle
- Stadium distances are shorter now

Pease do not get eliminated because you did not read the rules. It is the responsibility of every individual. Here's to a safe, competitive, and fun 2001 season for everyone.

Maritime Horse Trials and Clinic Schedule, 2001

May 19: Combined Test/Dressage Schooling Show at Venture Stables PEI. Contact Theresa Mellish 838-4032, ktm.mellish@pei.sympatico.ca

May 20: Jump Building Clinic with Michael Gallagher, Strathgartney Equestrian Park, Bonshaw PEI. Contact Lisa MacGillivray 659-2558, macgillivray@upei.ca

June 2/3: Cross Country Clinic with Rob Stevenson, Foshay Farm, Lower Jemseg NB. Contact Rob Stevenson rssteven@hotmail.com

June 9: Cross Country Clinic with Alex Beaton, Strathgartney Equestrian Park, Bonshaw PEI. Contact Donna Allen 894-8522, donna_allen@cbc.ca

June 10: Sheffield Horse Trial #1, Petticodiac, NB. T, PT, S

June 23: Strathgartney Summer Horse Trial, Strathgartney Equestrian Park, Bonshaw PEI. Contact Judy Simms 892-8644, jsimms@upei.ca T, PT, S, E

June 30/July 1: Cross Country Clinic with Rob Stevenson, Foshay Farm, Lower Jemseg NB. Contact Rob Stevenson rssteven@hotmail.com

July 7: Cross Country Clinic with Peter Gray, Foshay Farm, Lower Jemseg NB. Contact Rob Stevenson rssteven@hotmail.com

July 15: Red Bank Horse Trial, Centre Burlington NS. P, T, PT, S

July 22: Evergreen/Gallaway Horse Trial, Hampton NB. P, T, PT, S

July 29: Central Nova Horse Trials, Truro NS. T, PT, S

July 28/29: Cross Country Clinic with Rob Stevenson, Foshay Farm, Lower Jemseg NB. Contact Rob Stevenson rssteven@hotmail.com

Aug.5: Sheffield Horse Trial #2, Petticodiac NB T, PT, S

Aug.5: Medford Meadows Horse Trial, Kings County NS. P, T, PT, S

Aug.12: Foshay Horse Trial, Lower Jemseg, NB. P, T, PT, S

Sept.2: Applewood Horse Trial, Woodville NS. P, T, PT, S

Sept.9: Hobby Horse Farm Horse Trial, Coldbrook NS. P, T, PT, S

Sept. 15: Strathgartney Autumn Horse Trial, Strathgartney Equestrian Park, Bonshaw PEI. Contact Judy Simms 892-8644, jsimms@upei.ca T, PT, S, E

Sept 28-30: Atlantic Canadian Equestrian Championships, Sussex, New Brunswick. HTPEI will contribute \$50 to each HTPEI member who participates in the Eventing Championship to help with expenses. Contact Susan.

P - Preliminary T - Training PT - Pre-Training S - Starter E - Entry