

22nd February, 2010

PRESS RELEASE

GOLD MEDAL WINNER TO RIDE PONIES AT PSI DJWTS !

Exciting news for the pony competitors at this year's PSI Dressage & Jumping with the Stars, with the announcement that German rider Lydia Camp, a former European Pony Championship gold medallist and four time Bundeschampionship Pony winner, will be attending this year's event. Lydia will ride the top 3 ponies in the 4 year old material class, following the first round of competition, to determine the winner. For the finalists this is a unique opportunity to have their ponies ridden and assessed by one of Europe's most successful dressage pony rider.

Many of Lydia's major dressage pony successes were with the elegant palomino mare "Dulcia" as together they proved to be a formidable combination winning twice at the Bundeschampionships (2001 and 2002). They captured the individual Bronze and Team Gold Medal at the 2003 European Pony Championships and then later won both the Individual and Team Gold Medals at the 2006 European Pony Championships. In the same year they won the gold medal in the FEI Pony Division at the German Youth Riders Championships.

Another pony star was Valido's Contrast with whom she won the 5yo class at the Bundeschampionships in 2004 with a score of 9.5 and high praise from the judges for her riding performance. She has many other top 10 finishes in the pony classes at the Bundeschampionships, and at the 2007 event rode 4 different ponies in 2 different age classes for a 3rd, 5th, 6th and 8th ! Lydia is now 19 years old and has made a successful transition to the big horses, is competing successfully in international Young Rider classes and also proving to be a gifted young horse rider.

Young dressage pony classes were first introduced at DJWTS in 2009 and attracted only a handful of entrants in the 4 year old class, the only class offered. This year the pony program has been expanded to include a 5 year old class and the event organisers have been rewarded with entries more than trebling from last year. The 4 year old class is the most popular with 12 entrants, and 8 entrants in the 5 year old class, including the top 3 placegetters from last year's event. It is encouraging to see inter-state competitors in the 5 year old class, and hopefully this will entice more inter-state entries in the future.

This year's PSI Dressage & Jumping with the Stars runs over 3 days, from March 18 – 20, and is being held at the Werribee Park National Equestrian Centre. The event features almost non-stop action over the three days, with competition highlights including the Australian Young Dressage Horse Championships, the Young Jumping Horse Championships and a CDI-W competition for Australia's leading Grand Prix horses. The popular Masterclasses are an integral part of DJWTS and are again being held on the Saturday. International dressage trainer Ton de Ridder is presenting the Saddleworld Dressage Masterclass and Irish international showjumper and trainer Edward Doyle is conducting the Jumping Masterclass. And of course there is the extensive trade village with plenty of shopping opportunities !

Definitely an event not to be missed ! Silver and bronze tickets are still available for advance purchase, at a discounted rate, until March 8 from GPAC, phone 03 52251200. More event information available from:

www.equestrianvictoriaevents.com.au/DJWTS or www.vic.equestrian.org.au

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