



January 2018



Deirdre Bartlett and Craig Royston Zaria, North Island 160km Champion 2018



Jayden Loveridge and Makahiwi Phoenix, North Island 160km JY Champion 2018

Editorial

What a month its been. For me its been summed up by a comment reported from on the track at North Island Champs. When Jane Ferguson was suffering on track with the heat three other riders stuck with her, cooled her down and looked after her to the finish line. “No endurance family member is being left behind today” is surely a catchphrase for all of us. This kind of sportsmanship is what we should all be about. To those riders who stayed to help (Sue Reid, Pip Mutch and Sean Trafford) I sincerely applaud you, and also to Jane, who made it all the way to the end despite the heat. I see evidence of great sportsmanship often at our events. It makes me happy. I’m sure our sponsors must be as proud to see our sport in such good shape as I am. We also have wonderful volunteers who devote a huge amount of their time to make events happen, and others who step up to fill gaps at the last minute when real life gets in the way. Its always nice to see some of these volunteers actually getting to ride sometimes as well (Emma Burden, I’m looking at you in particular). With the first of the Championship rides behind us its all eyes on the South Island Champs and the tail end of the season. Not too soon to start thinking about who you might want to nominate for the volunteer awards and event of the year award. Have fun and keep cool. See you on the trails

Daryl Owen



ESNZ Endurance Board 2018

Its been a relatively quiet month on the Board with everyone’s focus being on North Island Champs. There has been work happening on sponsorship. Jo has been collating the dates from clubs for next season’s calendar and planning is well underway for the AGM in July. Details will be sent out as soon as possible to allow people to arrange accommodation and transport. The next Board meeting is coming up on 22 February so if there is anything you want discussed please let Jo Lankow know so that it can go on the agenda.

The new website is now live and is currently being updated with the essential information being uploaded onto it (horse and rider details, calendars, results ...). If there is anything not there that you think should be there please let us know. With South Island Champs coming up in a couple of weeks website updates may be a little delayed. Please have patience. The crew are working as fast as they can.

Upcoming rides

North Island 2017-2018

In February
Waitomo at Pukeatua
Waikato at Hikumutu, Taumaranui
Wairarapa

And in March
Ruahine
Wairarapa
AWEC

South Island 2017-2018

In February
Marlborough
SOUTH ISLAND CHAMPS at Cannington

And in March
Nelson
MacKenzie
Marlborough

NATIONALS

Officials Panel

Great to see the clubs for the three FEI events, that have been held so far this season, using many of our newly promoted FEI Officials (2* Judges and TDs and Level 1 Stewards), which goes a long way in helping them towards promotion.

Many of you who did FEI Officials courses in 2016 may be eligible for promotion at the end of this season (after having officiated at enough FEI events) - contact Heidi or Jo if you think this may be you and we can advise accordingly.

Big thanks to the FEI who funded the travel for the North Island Champs Foreign Judge, Kiyotaka Yaguchi (Japanese but resides in Seattle, USA) as part of their FEI Officials Exchange Programme. It sounds like Yaguchi was a welcome addition to the Ground Jury and had a lot to offer. The Exchange Programme is available to current FEI Officials that have been invited to officiate overseas, with the event counting towards promotion.

It is part of the ESNZ Endurance strategic plan, going forward, to ensure our sport has a good number of suitable officials, for both National and International level of competition. Officiating is rewarding and can take you places you may not otherwise experience. Officiating starts with a National level course, then you add experience to your portfolio before upgrading to National Judge, TD and/or Steward. You don't have to be a rider to officiate, so if this sounds like you, get in touch!

If your club needs more National level officials contact a member of the Officials Training Panel to organise a course. ESNZ Endurance will be looking to hold FEI courses in 2019, for both new and current FEI Officials.

Rides around the country

Auckland Woodhill at Atiu Creek

AWEC's new venue at Atiu Creek Regional Park turned on a stunning weekend for the club's December ride and the 80km event saw nine entries head out at 6am to a beautiful clear morning. The marking was excellent and mow strips made the footing very clear. Coming up over the first rise riders were greeted by a spectacular view of the Kaipara Harbour, which changed with each loop as the tide changed. As the day hotted up a sea breeze kept the temperature down, making perfect conditions for riding and Sian Reid took the early lead in the 80km ride, with Emma Tunstall not far behind.



The going was mostly rolling hills and park roads with a couple of steep declines and one section of softer footing - plenty of work and plenty of good going as well.



The 40km event headed out 10am with 20km and 10km riders following. Smiles abounded all around the course. Several were doing their first rides. Others had done one or two but swore to come back and do more.

Results to follow, but with every likelihood the club's next ride will be at the same location this rider at least will be braving the northern motorway to enjoy this location again.



Wairarapa: Daisybank CTR and endurance – 6-7 January 2018

The first ride in 2018 for the Wairarapa club was held at Daisybank Station just out of Martinborough, courtesy of the Harvey family. Large numbers of pre-entries were received, and the committee were gearing up for a big weekend. Unfortunately the horrendous weather forecast and anticipated severe winds meant numbers ended up being a little down on what was expected. However a number of 15km CTR riders delayed their travel and joined us on Sunday instead, which was much appreciated.

Our hosts had gone to a lot of trouble to ensure a great ride, shifting stock and opening gates, with the result there was only two gates on course. Daisybank is known as a pretty tough hill ride, but with slightly cooler temperatures and open gates it rode beautifully, with a free flowing, fun, scenic track.



12 CTR riders took on the course on Saturday afternoon in distances from 15 to 30km, with all starters successfully qualifying. Anna Graham took out the open 30, Sue Smith the intermediate 30 and Grace Blyth the junior in a fairly close tussle. Seven endurance riders lined up in the 40km classes, all getting through. The new combination of Lucy Newton on the super experienced Sayfwood Classique (on lease from Sylvia Ireland) won the intermediate 40, and Pip took out the junior. Only seconds separated the four novice riders, with Trudi Thomas-Morton

bringing out a new novice, in her bid to ride as many horses as possible as preparation for the Mongol Derby later this year.

Sunday was endurance day, with only three riders lining up in the 80, due to the proximity to North Island champs; Sean Trafford on the gentlemanly stallion Rivergum Dark Knight, and Murray and Andrea Smith, on two in-season mares (!). The 60km distance was the class of choice for many, as riders put the finishing touches on their preparation for champs. Much of the class rode as a pack for part of the first loop, which I found very enjoyable; it was a novel experience for me cantering happily along the rolling country in a group.



The class was taken out by Frank, with Jenny a second behind, closely followed by Shane bringing out Tararua Sharman as he prepped for carrying a junior rider a fortnight later. In the junior class,

Hanna Whitehead took line honours over her sister, Ana. In the 40km class, Gemma Haywood and Roselea Royal Fire pipped Leanne and the evergreen Alshar Blue Levi by a nostril.

A good contingent made the trip over the hill from Titahi Bay, and it was our pleasure to welcome them to the Wairarapa. First over the line in the 15km intro class was junior rider Lucy Allomes and AA Shakira, accompanied by Kara Ireland and Supre Zerlina. 3rd over the line was new rider Anita Jones, on my first arab, AH Mahmoud, looking keen and happy with his ears pricked coming into the finish.



It was a very successful competition with only one unfortunate vet-out all weekend, and our thanks go to our hard working ground jury and crew, and particularly Frank for marking a most enjoyable track, and to our generous landowners



Marlborough at Leefield Station:

Marlborough Endurance and Trail Riding Club held their January rides at the historic Leefield Station, Waihopai Valley. While the farm part of the station is massive, the rides this time took place over the vineyards, run by Marisco (and with their own Leefield label), which would be one of the largest single owned in the country. The ride was split into two loops - A headed north along the Waihopai Valley road, with great views of the Spy Station, while B headed south,

winding around smaller blocks featuring creek crossings and a rather inviting looking dam - particularly in the 30+ degree heat!



Three riders braved the hot conditions and chose to ride 80km - Linda Harmon and MF Shaheen following up a good win in December with a second one, their time 5 hrs 19. Another highlight was Junior rider Samantha Jarvis, and FF Governor, completing their second Novice 80km, to elevate them to Open status. It is Samantha's second full season riding Governor in the Marlborough club and the pair have come a long way from their first Novice CTR. Samantha heads off to Otago University this year, for her first year, so will be greatly missed. The 80km

ride was great build up for those heading south next month to compete at the South Island Champs (where we'll all be hoping it won't be nearly as hot!).

CTR was run alongside endurance and most chose the sensible option in the heat, of 15km.

Big thanks to Leefield and Marisco vineyards (yes, The Ned Pinot Gris is a personal favorite of mine!!)

North Island Champs

It was all eyes on the weather forecast in the leadup to North Island Champs. The forecast was appalling, and then it seemed the rain would ease to showers instead ... in the end the rain finished at lunchtime on Friday and the weather turned very hot and humid. At one point on Saturday the humidity hit about 85% I'm told. A starting field of nine seniors headed out for the 160km at 1am and it was hot already. The track at Taupo is always deceptively tough. Of the original nine only four completed the distance, and only three passed the vet check. Georgia Smith was the early leader with Sian Reid, Alison Higgins



and Amanda McConachy not far behind. Ross Hill was the first out, a pulled shoe leading him to withdraw in the hold period.

As the day wore on others succumbed to the hard ground leaving only four still in for the last loop. Georgia Smith and Vixen crossed the line well ahead of the rest but unfortunately was vetted out lame by the panel of vets. Deirdre Bartlett and Craig Royston Zaria subsequently took the win in a time of 13:28:05, and were



also awarded Best Conditioned. The final two riders, both Australians riding borrowed horses, opted for caution in the unaccustomed humidity and completed successfully in just under maximum time. Christine Stomps on Miro Bay Plenty took second place and was also awarded the trophy for lowest total recovery time. Teammate Camille Champagne on Miro Lugh also completed successfully, but due to an earlier course error was competing

for completion only rather than a placing.

Jayden Loveridge experienced the extreme highs and lows of endurance this weekend. In his first 160km event he rode Makahiwi Phoenix to take the win in the JY 160km on Saturday. His winning time was a solid 13:43:44 and he was also awarded Best Conditioned for the class. On Sunday morning he headed out again in the CEI JY 80km on Mizraim Florence. Early in the ride an unfortunate kick from another horse and contact with an electric fence finished with Jayden on the ground and finished for the day. Commiserations Jayden. That's endurance.



The second event on Saturday was the 106km event. Eight senior riders and two juniors headed out at 3am. First

across the line and claiming the win was Lisa Southon on Tararua El Dente in a time of 7:22:58. Second place went to Kaye Lancaster and Glenmore Nazirah three minutes later, with Frank Aldridge and Mystica Bandito completing successfully for third. Best conditioned was awarded to Tararua El Dente. A successful weekend for Lisa.



As is often the case the only gallop finish of the weekend was in the JY 106km. Rowan Redmond and Martika Fire pushed just a little ahead of Tayla Morris on Tararua Sharman to claim the win in an exciting finish (time 7:37:18). Martika

Fire was also awarded Best Conditioned, a well-deserved result for Rowan.

Also on Saturday was the 80km CEN event. Pippa Roberts and KD Zade carried on their successful season with a win in this event, followed by Debbie Davies and Arahi Liquid Silver. All novice entries in this class completed successfully as well.

Another 3am start on Sunday saw the biggest field of the day, the 126km event. Barack Obama and Jenny Champion were the ones to watch, with



Jenny aiming for a completion speed. She achieved this successfully, Barack Obama looking strong all day. Their winning time was 7:44:26, and they also took Best Conditioned. As other competitors succumbed to the hard ground it was Cherry Brown who came through on Tararua Diablo to take second place two hours later. Ruth Dawber and Miro Dusty Trails were third and Daryl Owen on Miro Blaze of Glory was fourth, completing a very successful weekend for their team.

In the JY 126km Hanna Whitehead and Dundevale Nazecca finished successfully in 10:18:36 for the win and Best Conditioned.

Emma Tunstall won the 1* 80km on Windvale Faridah in a time of 6:09:12 with Joanne Loveridge in second place on Silands Pilot and Sarah Addy on Escarda Mozambique in third.



The 62km Championship event, usually the fastest of the weekend, saw lower speeds and a 100% completion rate with the heat remaining an issue. Patricia Ireland won the JY division on Supre Zerlina in a time of 4:40:54, with Leanne Ireland teaming up with Alshar Blue Levi again and winning the senior

Canterbury CTR at Oxford

Canterbury's final ride for January was well supported with miles of smiles all round. With South Island Champs just around the corner some of these riders will have been getting final qualifications and training in.



Foreign rider at North Island Champs

By Christine Stomps

Last weekend I ventured to New Zealand's North Island to compete in the FEI 3* event at the North Island Championships.

I had been very fortunate to be offered a ride on Mike Bragg's mare Miro Bonique. Unfortunately she had a minor incident the week prior to the event and was unable to compete. Daryl Owen didn't hesitate to offer me her mount Miro Bay Plenty aka Salty - a very generous gesture.

I landed in Auckland and travelled down to Taupo with fellow Aussie, Queensland rider Camille Champagne. It was a very long wet drive that took nearly double the time google maps said! We were both dreading doing a 160km in the pouring rain.

Roll on Friday and the weather wasn't looking much better! We arrived at ride base and met the rest of the Miro team and our mounts for the weekend.

Despite the forecast, Daryl seemed pretty confident the rain would ease in the afternoon. It had been raining nonstop since I landed in New Zealand! She was right though. We headed out for a familiarisation ride in the afternoon where I discovered Salty had a few more paces than the average horse. It was my first time riding in a hackamore too but all was pretty uneventful and we hacked out on a bridle path and vetted the horses in followed by ride talk and an had early evening. Did I mention Daryl is super organised? She had cooked the whole team lasagne!

The 160km ride kicked off at 1.15am and had nine starters total, seven of which were FEI. Leg lengths were 37, 37, 26, 26, 17, 17 kms. Conditions were very humid, one of the stewards told me the lowest it got was 65% humidity but ranged up to 85%. At least the rain had stopped but you could suck the air it was so thick. Sweaty enough to change for a t-shirt for leg 2 even in the dark!

I had decided on a slow and steady completion as my ride plan and stuck to my plan throughout the day.

The ride was tough. Those cheeky Kiwi's kept telling me it was flat. There was quite the hill in Leg B though, as the course maker had put in a surprise for the regulars. I now understand that "flat" to a New Zealander actually means undulating. We at least agreed a hill is a hill in the end! Hahaha.

I had a couple of shoes loosen off Leg 1 and 2 and the farrier Brian Cave was wonderful in rectifying and enabling us to continue. Not sure he was keen on the 3am-ish one though!

The ride took us under some road tunnel underpasses that were a first for me - you had to dismount for these as they were far too low to ride through.



As Camille and I were riding stable mates we rode together at the start and on the last legs to assist each other and we had a lot of fun on those final legs.

Conservative riding paid off with the conditions and despite Salty losing his off fore shoe about 3km out from the finish line and me a little horrified (I had a lump in my throat and tears in my eyes in the vet ring) he passed final vet check with flying colours. Probably thanks to the wonderful landowners clover! His parameters had actually improved throughout the ride.

I crossed the line with Camille (sadly she was ineligible for placing) and was so excited when both of us achieved completion - 2 out of 2 - not bad! A good weekend for Aussies.

As we were the only FEI 3* completions of the day, while I was second over the line in the 160, I had won the FEI category!

Team Miro success continued all weekend with Ruth and Daryl also successful the following day in the 2* placing 3rd and 4th. The team achieved 100% completion across the weekend in tough conditions. Definitely a proud moment for Mike!

In one of my proudest endurance moments Salty and I were awarded best managed for the 3* at presentation. I sure hope Mike admires that trophy for the next 12 months!

To cap it all off Camille, Daryl and I (the Kangas and Kiwi team) won the Teams event over the weekend.

Taupo will remain a fond memory for me. I am very grateful to Mike and Daryl for giving me the ride, to Ruth for trotting Salty up all day and to the whole strapping team - Mike, Daryl, Ruth and Zane - for your efforts all day and for welcoming us into your camp. Special thanks to Camille for your company on those last two legs, it was loads of fun!

Thank you to all the officials, ride organisers, veterinarians, volunteers, sponsors and landowners who enable us to compete at these events.

Last but not least

