



November /December 2018



Marlborough FEI event

Photo by Angela Fergusson

Editorial

Firstly, apologies for having lost track of November. Its funny how one thing going wrong can derail entire weeks. For as long as I've been doing endurance I've had people telling me not to plan too rigidly and that doesn't apply only to my ride plan. Such is the nature of horses that it doesn't take much to put a dent in a season plan. Hopefully that one unfortunate rock in training won't have too long lasting an impact on the season. The other thing I discovered in the process of doing nominated entries for North Island Champs coming up was that one horse's registration had expired!! I'm so pleased to have discovered that before heading away to the next ride. It seems that no matter how organised you try to be there's always something else that you've probably overlooked. So one of my life lessons this month has been to double check things. Check records to make sure memberships and other things are up to date (I once discovered the night before flying to Australia that my passport had expired, and when I got to Australia I discovered my drivers licence had also expired). Check feet to make sure there are no rocks in them, and if the gait feels slightly off jump off and check instead of thinking it was a momentary thing. I'm sure I'll need to learn these lessons once or twice more yet, but I've surely learned them well enough for the moment.



Hope everyone else's seasons are going smoothly. Bye bye 2018 and bring it on 2019!! See you out there.

Daryl Owen

ESNZ Endurance Board 2018

The Board's main focus recently has been getting ahead of the organisation of Nationals and planning for next season. There was a byelection to appoint a new South Island Board member. Welcome to the Board Jessica Kennedy. Jess brings a wealth of experience and skills to the Board from outside of endurance, and I'm sure we all look forward to her fresh perspective and energy. The ESNZ Constitution review has been put out for discussion. It seems that we've only just started this season, but work is necessarily well under way for next season's calendar and this should help an awful lot with forward planning for everyone.

Internationally there has been a new committee formed under the FEI which aims to 'urgently review the Endurance rules in order to address the issues currently affecting the discipline'. Our Board was asked to give feedback on which set of rules the sport should follow in the interim. The feedback was sent that we preferred the rules that had extra standdowns for excessive speeds but no extra standdown for completion speeds less than 20km. Internationally the majority vote was to stay with the current rules rather than have to change them yet again. This committee is receiving feedback from riders and federations worldwide and promises to 'carry out an in-depth review of the rules that will bring the discipline back to its original roots of Endurance riding as opposed to Endurance racing, with horse welfare and horsemanship at its core, while still maintaining the competitive aspect of the sport'. There will be an update at the FEI Sports Forum in April.

Upcoming rides

North Island 2018-2019

January

5/6 - Wairarapa
12/13 - Waikato , Matiere
19/20
26/27

February

2/3 - North Island Champs – Wairarapa
9/10
16/17
23/24 - Waikato – Hikumutu

March

2/3

South Island 2018-2019

January

5/6 Marlborough
12/13 - Mackenzie
19/20
26/27 - Canterbury

February

2/3
9/10
16/17 - Marlborough
- Mackenzie

23/24

March

2/3 - South Island Champs - Nelson

The season thus far ...

The Wairarapa Endurance and CTR club – Wairarapa club has had a busy couple of month, with two rides in quick succession. Matahiwi was a windy weekend, with a strong field of 80km riders and others also enjoying the 60km, 40km and 20km distances. Early November saw the club's Tinui event promoting CTR as always and in true Wairarapa style there's no time to stop and rest, as their next event rolls around pretty fast for early January.

Waikato club at Paeroa – The weather in June, at the end of last season, was so wet that Waikato club's Paeroa ride was cancelled before it was even marked. This time, with no rain in sight, the course was marked and the weather couldn't have been more different. Those who camped overnight were rewarded with stunning views over the Hauraki Plains and the Firth of Thames. This venue is also home to a motorbike event each year and the track demanded respect, with lots of climbing. It was also quite hard underfoot with the dry weather, and the heat on the day also played its part. Ride strategies were amended along the way as people adjusted to the conditions and made decisions accordingly. Well done to everyone who came and made it work. As is often the case the highlight of the weekend was seeing the leadrein class running their own horses out. With more local knowledge to expand the track there is scope for much more at this venue.



Kohuratahi

Early December saw riders heading to Kohuratahi Club for and for some it was the first time along the forgotten highway to Whangamomona. It's always a great ride (I am biased) and a very friendly relaxed atmosphere.

Saturday saw 13 riders in the 40km event, the weather was overcast and a little breezy on the hills, and some mud around the tracks thanks to the weather we have all been getting. Everyone enjoyed their ride and the super countryside with some fantastic views.

After the ride on Saturday we all got together for a spit roasted lamb shared salads and good conversation amongst the endurance community and land owners. It was great to see Pip Mutch's grandmother out enjoying the weekend with us all with four generations of endurance competitors past and present from the family.



Sundays start was 5.30am for the 80km riders; the weather was warm for the 12 senior combinations and four juniors to leave for the first loop of 40km. Jackets and jumpers were discarded as we came through base after 24km loop to do the next 16km. The 24km loop had several climbs in the first 10k then it was down hill and flat going back to the base. The 16km loop had a really good climb in it and some good tracks around the side with quite the view, once up on top there was a small lollipop loop with a short climb back up, once we were on the ridge we went right around the top and then back down to base.

The second loop was 16km; the third loop 24km, the sun came out during the 2nd loop and shone for the rest of the day making riding conditions very hot.

The 40km ride on Sunday saw one senior rider and two junior riders. It was certainly great to see young Isla Mutch out doing her first 40km with her new pony Sahar Park Moondance. Also on Sunday was a 24km ride a small field but a very happy bunch of riders and horses who had a great time.

By Susan Reid

Ruahine at Piriaka

It was hot competition in more ways than one! Much of the country was inundated with afternoon thunder storms in the lead-up to this event so everyone was prepared for heat, rain and electrical storms. Fortunately, the dangerous thunder and lightning didn't eventuate and there was only a light shower on the Saturday afternoon to cool people off. Riders and horses on Sunday may have wished for the same but it didn't eventuate.



There were small fields in the various shorter-distance classes on the Saturday afternoon with most of these competitors also riding on the Sunday. Jayden Loveridge was the only non-novice rider (on Silands Pilot) and everyone qualified comfortably. Hard to decide the cutest combination on the day - Pip and Isla Mutch on Mauku Eve and Sahar Park Moondance respectively (both doing a novice 40 km) or Ashlea Watson riding Scarlett in the 5 km lead rein class. A bottle of water and a bottle of beer were placed out on the track for rehydration

purposes; we presume that Ashlea drank the water while her Dad Chris had the beer.

A treat for some on the Saturday afternoon and evening was a jet boat trip on the nearby Whanganui River courtesy of Ross Hill and Taumarunui Canoe Hire and Jet Boat Tours. This was a lot of fun and you didn't even need to get your feet wet. Thanks Ross for adding to the adventure of the weekend.

It was decided on the Saturday to start all Sunday rides an hour ahead of schedule due to the forecast heat and risk of late afternoon thunderstorms. I think we were all grateful the next day to be an hour ahead of things. Everyone gathered at Stu and Marie's for a shared dinner with salads, steak, bangers and venison all on offer – a superb spread as always and a nice, relaxed atmosphere. Then it was an early night as most would be getting up at 4 am for the 80 km starting at 5 am. There were a total of 24 entries in the 80 km events with almost as many juniors competing as seniors. Great to see so many junior riders coming up through the ranks and taking on the bigger distances.

Competition in the both Open classes was pretty stiff with Ruth Dawber riding Miro Blaze of Glory just taking line honours from Sean Trafford on Prince Eligani SPA with a riding time of only just under 6 hours. The front runners in the Open JY 80 km both encountered problems early in the ride so the win went to Ana Whitehead riding Dundevale Nazecca. The heat and the conditions took their toll on many



competitors with some vetting out lame and a few out on Heart Rate or wisely choosing to withdraw and focus on the next events on the calendar (Daisybank, Matiere and then the North Island Champs). Shout out to Zoe Neubert for reaching open rider status riding Makahiwi Cercie.

Six combinations entered the 60 km classes and it was Lisa Southon who took out the win riding Tatarua Sharman (Junior), closely followed by Vicky Whitehead on Craig Royston Sonatina. Another six combinations took on the 40 km distance on the Sunday with the win going to Stu Wakeling riding Tokopuhe Lily.

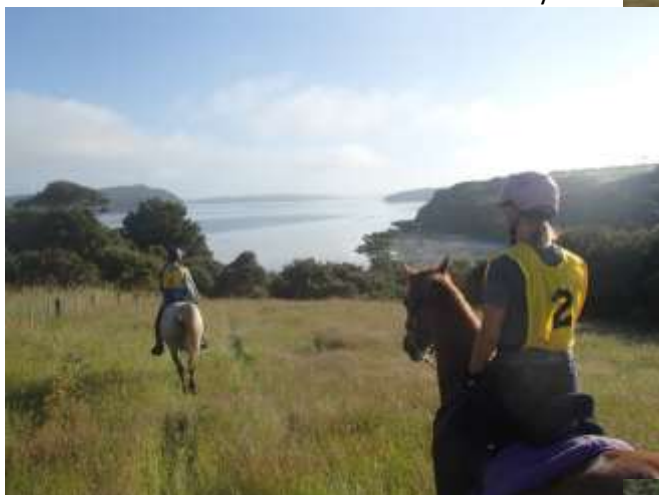
A great event to wrap up the early part of the season before Christmas and things start to get more serious from here on in. Merry Christmas to everyone and save some carrots for your ponies and don't leave them all out for the reindeer.

And thanks to Maureen Davie for all the images.

Jenny Weston

AWEC – at Te Atiu Regional Park

The weekend after Christmas saw a return to this stunning venue just south of Wellsford. The promised New Year's traffic nightmare proved to be a bit of a non-event and the weather on the day of the ride was near perfect – lots of sunshine with a welcome cool breeze once you



got out of the valleys. A misty start saw the 80km riders heading on out over familiar terrain with stunning views over the Kaipara harbour. Hikers and campers seemed to very much enjoy seeing the horses coming past – some looking slightly envious as we trotted past, leaving them to trudge along in

the heat behind us. The base paddock continued to fill up during the day as more turned up for the shorter distance rides and there were indeed miles of smiles all round. Awesome job AWEC and this rider will certainly plan to be back for the next one.



Canterbury – The November ride in Culverdon was severely weather affected. Riders braved the conditions on Saturday, but Sunday was cancelled as organisers decided it was dangerous to continue. Ursula posted the following after the event.

“Congratulations to you all, it was a pretty stunning effort from all of you who rode, it was an event that had the most appalling conditions we have seen in some years, so you all did an incredible job looking after your horses and yourselves and making it happen out there!”



The view in the days before the event was stunning

Marlborough

ESNZ Endurance’s 2018-2019 FEI Series got off to a start with the beautiful Seddon CEI2* event, hosted by the Marlborough club. The ride went wholly over the Yealands’ and Pernod-Ricard’s vineyards at Seaview, with breath-taking views over the sea to the North Island, and the Awatere river to the south.

Rain earlier in the week in Marlborough ensured near-perfect underfoot conditions, with not a single lameness vet out for any of the endurance classes. The vets and officials helped with the smooth running of the event, and the atmosphere was relaxed and inviting. Riders had travelled from as far afield as Palmerston in the South and the Wairarapa in the North.

Saturday’s rides started with the CEI2* 120km at 5.30am (delayed from 5am due to overcast conditions), with just four lining up. They completed a 40km loop in each direction before the 24km third loop and final 16km.



Nelson Lakes' Alison Higgins, riding her super mare MF Bab Al Shams, led from start to finish, and never looked like being beaten, finishing the four loop ride in 8.22.40 (14.32kph). Marlborough's Robyn Hill (Purdark) and MacKenzie's Vanessa Tiffen (Stoneleigh Summer Fire) were content to take it easy and ride for completions, crossing the line for second and third respectively, in just over 10 and a half hours. Best Conditioned Horse was awarded to MF Bab Al Shams.



Saturday's CEI1* 80km saw eight combinations line up at 6am for the three loop ride, with Marlborough's Linda Harmon (riding her homebred MF Shaheen) taking an early lead and never looking back all day, completing the final 16km loop in just under 55 minutes, with an overall ride time of 5.26.50 (14.69kph). Second was Louise Holmes and Willowbrook Noel Dancer, making their long

trip up from Fairlie worthwhile. Third and Fourth were Canterbury riders Sue Billigheimer (Ribbonwood Monet) and Emma Burden (Lord Caspian), completing in 7 hours 15. MF Shaheen was judged Best Conditioned Horse for Linda.

Local rider Caroline Houghton rode the whole 80km by herself on Dunrobin Ricochet (Novice Elevator), their first 80km together well deserved and in a time of 7.49.20.



At 6am on Sunday there were six starters in the CEI1* 80km, tackling the same course as the day before. Marlborough rider, and course designer for this event, Heidi Bulfin, riding Stonelea Sparkling Rose, rode mostly alone to cross the line first in a time of 5.36.57 (14.25kph). Palmerston's Susan Latta, Tkiwa, were second with Alison Higgins rounding out a good weekend for third, on Twyham Twilight, and daughter Kirsty Higgins fourth on Northwinds Apollo. Best Conditioned going to Stonelea

Sparkling Rose

There were also 40km rides taking place over both days, with eleven in the various classes, all completing. The majority of the Marlborough riders opted to ride in the Competitive Trail Riding (CTR) classes over the two days, with 32 in total across the various classes, starting at 17.5km and going up to the Open 40km class. Ever consistent Missy Green and Xavier Cheerokee finished on a very good 85 faults in their 24km Intermediate class on Saturday, while Sunday's Open 40km was won by Woodend's Andrea Rigby, onboard Euralea Eva, their final score 108.



The success of the event would not have been possible without generous support from sponsors and grant funders. Special thanks must go to Toft Endurance for their contribution and support to ESNZ Endurance, without which many of these rides would not go ahead.

By Heidi Bulfin

Mt Nimrod – Mt Nimrod's ride at Susan and Logan Latta's property in Nenthorn Valley was an amazing ride as reported by riders on the day.

Pictures say a thousand words, but 'Wow' sums up an awful lot I think. Congratulations to Mt Nimrod club and all those who were able to experience this amazing venue.





Officials

We've had a couple of promotions in the last couple of months

Congratulations to Wendy Farnell and Barbara Avery

One of New Zealand's longest serving Endurance official's, Wendy Farnell of Mayfield, Mid Canterbury, has been promoted by FEI to level 3 FEI Endurance Steward. This makes Wendy the only level 3 Endurance Steward in the country and the first Kiwi to have reached this esteemed level.

"I am really honoured and proud to have been promoted by FEI to Level 3 FEI Steward! I have been told



that I am the first to reach this level for New Zealand Endurance so I am really chuffed."

Wendy first got involved in Endurance in 1990 when she met her husband John. Endurance then became a family affair, when her son Paul Cross decided that he wanted to follow John's footsteps and from there it was no going back.

Before she became involved in Endurance, Wendy had been involved in show jumping, was the head instructor at the local pony club and was currently

hunting. She rode her hunter in a 25km Endurance ride the day after participating in a hunt and thought it was easier than hunting. She didn't let that put her off though. Right from the second ride she attended Wendy was working on the ground, getting to know the sport and working her way up the official ladder. 'I fell in love with the sport'.

Wendy and John didn't spend all of their time in New Zealand. They also travelled the world taking horses with them. In 1997 they travelled with horse to Qatar, where they met some people who were impressed with their horses and training and offered Wendy and John jobs. They spent three years in the desert, sleeping during the day and training during the cooler nights. They then headed up to Europe, spending three years in Germany and another three in the Czech Republic, before heading home to finally meet their grandchildren.

This time away also presented Wendy with opportunities to officiate in many different countries across Europe, including the Czech Republic, Switzerland, many in Germany and also all the way down in South Africa.

John gave up riding in 2007 but Wendy was determined to stay involved. For the last four years she has been a national official's course director as well as being an official herself. Her son, Paul is also still involved in Endurance now, often attending events as the Farrier or just coming along to volunteer and catch up with old mates from his days as a junior.

In her own words Wendy is 'busy all the time' but she wouldn't have it any other way.

ESNZ Endurance has a newly appointed Steward General. Barbara Avery of Oxford, North Canterbury is taking up the important role. As Endurance Steward General, Barbara is responsible for the stewarding at all Endurance international events within New Zealand. Although she does not have to attend every event, she will be in communication with the Chief Steward, who will prepare a written report at the end of the event.



The Steward General must be a level 2 steward, a promotion Barbara received earlier this year. Good knowledge of the rules is also a must including those of a veterinary nature. With 25 years in the sport, Barbara has vast experience of the many different sides of Endurance, which is a huge benefit. Her Officials journey started in 2008 by attending a national official's course. She tried a mixture of official roles but found she enjoyed stewarding the most "I really got into stewarding about 5 years ago. It interests me, caring for the horse and the rider."

Barbara is very familiar with the organisation of international events from

her many times as an Organising Committee member, which is a job she has always enjoyed. She has ridden both Endurance and Competitive Trail Riding (C.T.R) and has been a groom for her two daughters. Barbara also spent 5 years on the Endurance Board.

Barbara's first taste of Endurance was a 40km ride on a very competitive Thoroughbred, after the blisters healed; she decided CTR might be more appropriate as you do not always see the horse in front.

Barbara says she appreciates the faith that has been put in her by the FEI and ESNZ Endurance "I'll give it my very best shot".

Barbara will do an annual report on Endurance Stewarding in New Zealand and this will be sent to the ESNZ Endurance Board, ESNZ Steward General Susan O'Brien and the FEI in Switzerland. Barbara will be also be working closely with the Endurance Officials Training Panel to arrange future stewards courses and recommend those who attend the courses and work as stewards for promotion

Tips from the vets

Tidying up my desk recently I found notes I took from Tony Parson's talk at our Palmerston North forum some years ago. This talk on 'Conditioning the Fit Horse' has always stuck with me.

Tony talked about working through the systems on a horse – skeletal, digestive, locomotor, cardiovascular and respiratory. He said that it is important to challenge the system and then let it recover. There should be an increase in challenge – frequency, duration and degree of stress – but don't change everything at once. Make gradual increases.

Skeletal – develop the capacity of the skeletal system through nutrition, exercise and time

Digestive – develop capacity, digestibility, utilisation and mobilisation

- Observe indicators of body condition, weight and coat condition

Locomotor – muscles, tendons, ligaments, joints

Cardiovascular – maximum heart rate doesn't change. What will change is how long it can stay at maximum and at what speed they hit maximum, and obviously recovery times change as the horse increases fitness.

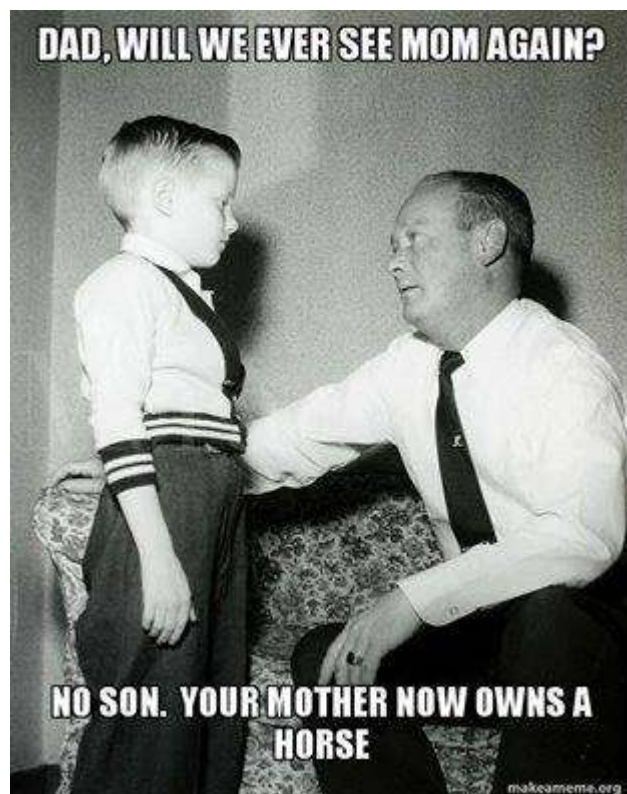
Respiratory – develop muscles, chest and diaphragm.

Tony said that a horse that's been off work for three weeks will have retained most of their fitness, but the respiratory system will need to be worked up again.

The take home points from his presentation were to make a plan, include all the systems, and monitor those systems.



And finally ...



Happy trails everyone