

## JUDGES BOX FOR BULLETIN

The season is really upon us now and our Regional Shows are in full swing. Many invites have been sent out to our judges and we are all frantically filling in our diaries.

This last month has seen Linda Warren-Davey and Mura Love judge in Wagga Wagga, NSW and Felicity Dobell-Brown at Boneo Park, Melbourne on the Victoria Exchange programme. All three of these judges have reported back saying what a great experience this was and how much they learned. On top of that we were so lucky to be able to secure Judy Alderdice and Leonie Coker writer positions at this event. They wrote for a variety of national and international judges and both found the experience valuable. (See report below)\*

These opportunities are invaluable to our judges in NZ and it is so important that we continue with these programmes. Both Victoria and Queensland have been very accommodating in the past few years and hopefully we may be able to encourage NSW to join in the Exchange programme with NZ.

We have three Australian national judges coming to the NI Champs in Masterton in January, two from Queensland and one from Tasmania and also one from Victoria to SI Champs in Christchurch. We have secured our International judges for our Bates National Championships and Horse of the Year Show judges are underway also so should have a good mix of judges for our riders this season.

Equidays are rapidly approaching and we have some senior judges who have been given the opportunity to write for our two visiting International judges. We are hoping that many judges, riders, coaches and interested parties will attend both the NI Clinic at Equidays and the SI Clinic in Christchurch. These clinics are invaluable for our improvement so please make every effort to attend one of them.

Good luck for the season and any questions or queries please don't hesitate to email or ring me or alternatively my sub-committee, Linda Warren-Davey or Michelle Paterson, we are always happy to assist if we can.

Sue Hobson

### **Report on Pencilling at Boneo Park**

Over the 3 days from 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> September, Judy Alderdice and Leonie Coker, both List 2 judges were fortunate enough to write (pencil) for the International judges at the Melbourne Spring CDI at Boneo Park.

What a wonderful learning experience this was, not only as we wrote for 6 different FEI judges but also we saw greater numbers of horses in the classes than we are used to here and they were all horses that were new to us.

This is an experience that we highly recommend and one that our Judges Officer, Sue Hobson, will help arrange for you if you contact her in plenty of time. However Sue has no influence over the organisers agreeing to have NZ judges write as many Australian judges must also do this for their upgrading criteria.

To say we were lucky at Boneo Park is an understatement.

We started with the warm up classes on Friday, doing the Int. II and the PSG with (15) and (17) horses respectively.

Saturday was The Int. I (10), the Int. A (5) and The GP CDI-N (6) , this was followed by writing for a couple of Australian B judges in a Pony Novice class of about 15 ponies mostly ridden by adult riders where we saw some very forward and supple ponies.

This then allowed us time to watch the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the GP CDI-W with the top 4 placing horses in this section including John Thompson on Bates Antonello (AJ). AJ was a little tense but completed a nice test but with some tension issues in the sequence changes.

Sunday was Musical day and we wrote for the entire spectrum from Level 7 up with the CDI-Y (5), Int. I freestyle (13), GP CDI-N freestyle (2) and the CDI-W freestyle (13).

The International judges were Thomas Lang from Austria 5\*, Susie Hoevenaars from Australia 5\*, Jane Ventura from Australia 4\*, Sue Hobson from NZ 4\*, Gisela Nilsson-Harding from Australia 3\* and Betty Brown from NZ 3\*.

The organisers were wonderful and gave us mostly the non NZ judges so we experienced different perspectives, however all the judges were within a very few % of each other showing their quality.

Boneo Park is a fantastic facility and the ladies organising the competition were very friendly and efficient and made us feel very welcome.

The 3 days of writing have given us both a new respect for our writers and what they actually do for us judges and also how important it is for writers with knowledge to write for our higher level classes especially the musicals where you really do need to have one eye on the movement and find it on the sheet with the other.

The 3 days shopping in Melbourne was also fantastic, what a lovely city, just a pity it decided to be wintry and cold (11-14 degrees) and this week is 26-28 degrees.

Leonie Coker/Judy Alderdice

List 2 judges

NZ