

Chef de Mission Report

Geoff Sinclair

7 weeks to go

It's hard to believe that the competitors and their support teams will all be in place ready to compete in just seven weeks! Selection trials have provided some exciting surprise additions to teams and there have been some superb performances from experienced previous Australian Team members. The opportunity to achieve medal positions in a number of our sports is strong and the whole EFA support system along with every individual competitor is working to ensure that we have the best chance to achieve this.

The Eventers have a long short list and with recent successes at Rolex, Badminton, many World Cups and Luhmühlen, the Australians are seen as a force to be reckoned with. The selectors have a big job finalising the team. The Showjumpers have the best chance they have had for years with some team members doing well in Europe at the moment. Dressage has decided to short list a full team who will train and compete at Ulla Salzgeber's place before WEG. The cost of their campaign will leave a tight budget to qualify at WEG for the 2008 Olympics as only the top three teams at WEG get a qualification for the Olympics which means we will have to send horses back to Europe next year to try and qualify. The dressage community, state branches, riders and owners will need to contribute



financially as the high performance funding and EFA members don't have sufficient funds to cover this cost.

Australia produces some of the world's best endurance horses and after winning gold in the World Youth Championships earlier this year there is every confidence the Endurance team will get a medal. The Drivers have put an extraordinary effort together and are lead by one of the world's best, Boyd Exell, who lives in the UK. They have the possibility of up to 3 teams competing and a good chance for a medal. And our vaulters have a big support crew going to ensure their girls do well.

We look forward to our most successful WEG yet and let's show the world and the Socceroos what we can achieve!!

Budget

As you can imagine, the cost of the WEG campaign is quite substantial. The Australian Sports Commission (ASC) is integral in supporting the Olympic Sports (Eventing, Dressage and Jumping) and has just confirmed our funding of around 1.2 million dollars per annum through to the Beijing 2008 Olympics, for which the EFA is very grateful. The size of this funding is recognition of the success of our Eventing team over many years, however, WEG is a "benchmark" event for the ASC and they will review our results as part of future funding decisions. This funding means we don't have to draw heavily on EFA members to fund these campaigns, particularly for the successful Eventers. The ASC funding relates strictly to our ability to achieve a medal position so there is even more incentive to succeed. Medal winning competitors and coaches in the Olympic disciplines will get a financial "bonus" for a medal position at WEG this year.

The Chefs in each sport are responsible to carefully spend their funding and stay within their budgets. They will work closely with EFA's High Performance Manager Brett Mace and myself to ensure this happens.



Entries

The nominated entries need to be entered online electronically by Niki Chapman at the EFA National Office by 17 July for all sports except Jumping and Driving which are due 24 July. Entries will not be accepted after this date and it is from this list that we can pick our final entries in August. I know that competitors and officials would prefer to wait but it is essential that Niki has the required uniform sizes as well as competitor, horse and officials' agreements along with a photo to her by 7 July so she can enter them in the WEG entry system and they are eligible to be selected or officiate. Without this information and signed agreements you can't be part of the team. If you need any more assistance please contact Niki niki@efanational.com

WEG Supporters Accommodation

The EFA have booked a number of rooms at a Golf Resort located just 15 minutes from the WEG in Aachen that are now available for any spectators or supporters visiting WEG and still seeking accommodation. These rooms are available from 19 August through to 3 September in a variety of configurations. As you will see from the prices below, the rates are very good in comparison to what you would expect to pay in Aachen (presuming you can find any).

Costs for the rooms are:-

- 1 guest per room (no breakfast) - € 59.50
- 1 guest per room (with breakfast) - € 67.50
- 2 guests per room (no breakfast) - € 40.00 (p/p)
- 2 guests per room (with breakfast) - € 47.50 (p/p)
- 3 guests per room (no breakfast) - € 32.50 (p/p)
- 3 guests per room (with breakfast) - € 40.00 (p/p)

Bookings are available on a first-in-first-served basis and will be available until 15 July, at which time any additional rooms will be handed back to the Resort.



For bookings please contact Brett Mace brett@efanational.com with number and dates of nights and type of accommodation required i.e. single/double/twin/triple or other.

Horse Insurance for Dressage, Jumping and Eventing horses

As a member of the short list for the World Equestrian Games, the EFA will insure these horses to cover all risks mortality, which includes theft but excludes loss of use, to the value of AUD\$50 000. The policy will include transit insurance and the cover will begin 11 July and expire 11 September 2006.

If riders or owners wish to top up this insurance to a greater value or for a longer period, please contact AON Risk Services directly (from AUS: 1800 806 493 from OS: +61 8 8301 1166) and speak to Beverly Wright or Jasmine Greaves. Either the rider or the horse owner will be responsible for payment of any additional insurance.

To allow the EFA to finalise our insurance, please complete the Equine Proposal Form and return to Niki Chapman by 4 July 2006.

Horse Feed

Peter Huntington at KER/RIDLEY our EFA Sponsor has arranged for their feed plus any rider's sponsor feed that was planned to be shipped to Aachen to arrive early August. This feed will be delivered to the Endurance camp site which is close to Aachen and the Chefs of each team will need to arrange collection for use at their training venue. The address where the feed is available from after early August is:

Mr Lei Romer
 Buizerdweg 8
 Llandgraaf 6374 BS
 The Netherlands
 Telephone: +31 455 318 518
 Fax: +31 455 319 075

The official horse feed supplier for WEG is HAVENS who will deliver to the venue every day. This will be supplied free of charge during the games. This feed is widely available throughout Germany at feed stores and after visiting the factory in the Netherlands you can be sure it is of good quality. If you are going to swap to local feed for your time in Europe we recommend you swap to HAVENS brand. Their most suitable feeds are:

- Draversbrok - sport performance cubes (used at Sydney and Barcelona by the Dutch team).
- Reform - herbal muesli, cereal, oats, alfalfa, herbs and oils.

- Power Plus - concentrate cereal mix with electrolytes.

The detailed formulas can be viewed on their website www.havens.nl. If you would like a brochure please contact brett@efanational.com or if you need the name of a local stockist contact myself or Joris Kaanen the MD of Havens on + 316 533 888 49 mobile or +31 478 638 238 office or email Info@Havens.nl



Chef d' Equipe Deb MacNicol
dmacnicol@bigpond.com



Kelly Layne and *Amoucheur*

The National Dressage Selectors have short-listed six combinations and named a reserve for the 2006 World Equestrian Games.

In accordance with Annexure A of the 2006 WEG Dressage Selection policy, the National Dressage Selectors have named the following combinations in the short list:

Australian-based combinations to travel to Europe:

1. Greenoaks Dundee – Heath Ryan
2. Chatham Park Jac – Rachael Sanna
3. Amoucheur – Kelly Layne

Overseas-based combinations

1. Quando-Quando – Kristy Oatley
2. Cinderella – Matthew Dowsley
3. Don Bolero – Kristy Oatley

Selectors also named Port Said 10 and Mary Hanna as the Non-Travelling Reserve combination.

All short-listed combinations will be required to participate in a training camp in Germany for a minimum of four weeks prior to travelling to the World Equestrian Games venue. National Training Advisor Ulla Salzgeber will assist riders during the camp. Riders will attend one or more events in Europe in the lead-up to WEG.

The EFA will name the riders and horses for final entries (including reserves) during the training camp in Germany on or before 15 August 2006.



Chef d' Equipe Stephen Lamb
sjlamb@netspace.net.au

June has been a successful month for our Jumping WEG aspirants both at home and abroad.

Jamie Kermond & *Stylish King* placed second in the JK Williams Grand Prix at the Showjumping in the Orchard event at Penrith, NSW, on the June long weekend. Jamie used the event as a warm-up, on his way further north to the Elysian International Showjumping Classic on the Gold Coast. As the richest Jumping competition in Australia, the event attracted huge interest.

The first weekend of competition was held 23-25 June, and the second was held last weekend on 1-2 July. Riders competed for the \$42,500



David Robertson and *Sharpe Seal*

prize in the Elysian Grand Prix on Sunday. This much sought-after title was won by Vicki Roycroft and *Infatuation* who took home a cheque for \$25,000 for first prize. Adam Mellers and *KC Alimo* placed second and Tim Amitrano with his Athens Olympic mount *Mr Innocent* finished in third place.

Meanwhile, in Europe, Edwina Alexander has posted several impressive performances on the Global Champions Tour. At Cannes Edwina and *Isovlas Pialotta* placed sixth in the 1.50m class, with Rodrigo Pessoa and his Athens Olympic gold medal mount *Baloubet* winning the event. In the 1.60m Grand Prix, Edwina again placed sixth, missing the final jump-off after jumping a clear round but incurring one time penalty (the winner was Austrian Thomas Frühmann on *The Sixth Sense*). The tour then moved to Monte Carlo in Monaco, and again, Edwina got off to a great start, placing fourth in the 1.55m class on day one, with Rodrigo again being the winner, this time on *Cantate Z*.

On the second day, in the 1.50m class, Edwina produced a scorching jump-off round to win the class on her second horse *Isovlas Socrates*. National Selector Peter Cooke, who saw Edwina's first round described the jump-off as follows: "The jump-off was very open for the first three fences and then a tight turn to the double, followed by another couple of turns to the last two. Pessoa came out first and just blitzed the round, clear and very quick – so I thought – out came the technician Otto Becker and he gave the class a good crack, clear and just 0.3 sec behind. The next two were young guys from Germany and Ireland and the German split the previous times and the other rounded Pessoa up by 0.35sec. Not possible to beat this round!! With nothing worse than 5th place in front of her, Edwina wound up and galloped the first fence (1.60m) and did not touch the reins for the first three fences, turned up to the double, found a shorter cut through to the next fence and galloped the last to be well over a second in front and the clear winner."

Still in Europe, James Paterson-Robinson competed at the Meise CSI** in Belgium. Riding *Splendid van*



James Paterson-Robinson

de Heffinck, (the horse he has a COC) James won the 1.45 class on the second day of competition, and therefore gave Australia two international wins in Europe on the same day! (James and Edwina). James also had a successful weekend with his young horse *Watch Me* placing second and seventh in two 6 & 7yo classes.



Eventing



Janelle Pitts and *Mr Showoff*

West Australian Sonja Johnson and *Ringwoud Jaguar* were victorious at the 50th Melbourne International Three-Day Event at Werribee at the final Australian WEG Selection event. Johnson won the dressage convincingly with a score of 45.6 and added just 5.2 cross country time penalties to finish on a commendable score of 50.8 against some of Australia's most competitive Eventing combinations on the scene. Finishing with a final score of 52.7 lying in second place was NSW rider Shane Rose and *All Luck* followed by South Australian rider Megan Jones and her Adelaide 4* winning horse *Kirby Park Irish Jester*.

There have also been some good results from the Aussies overseas with Lucinda Fredericks placing third at the Luhmühlen CCI**** with *Headley Britannia*. Matt Ryan and *Bonza Puzzle* finished in a creditable 14th position. Clayton Fredericks has also had some recent successes taking out Chatsworth CIC-W*** and just a week later winning Saumur CCI*** both with *Ben Along Time*.

After the Melbourne 3DE the Australian selectors announced the six Australian-based combinations that will go into camp on 24 July - 08 August at SIEC with Wayne Roycroft, Sam Lyle & Harry Boldt before travelling to Germany to join the overseas-based riders at the WEG preparation camp in Germany where the final selection of the team will be made. The short-listed riders are:



Matt Ryan and *Bonza Puzzle*

Australian-based combinations:

1. Megan Jones and *Kirby Park Irish Jester*
2. Sonja Johnson and *Ringwoud Jaguar*
3. Rebel Morrow and *Oaklea Groover*
4. Janelle Pitts and *Mr Showoff*
5. Shane Rose and *All Luck*
6. Wendy Schaeffer and *Koyuna Sun Magic*

Overseas-based combinations:

1. Phillip Dutton & *Connaught*
2. Clayton Fredericks & *Ben Along Time*
3. Lucinda Fredericks & *Headley Britannia*
4. Andrew Hoy with 2 horses (TBC)
5. Matt Ryan & *Bonza Puzzle*



Chef d' Equipe Karen Everett
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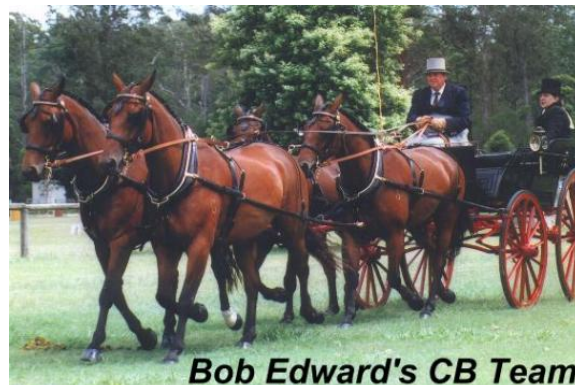
All three Australian Drivers who hope to qualify for WEG are now in Europe preparing horses and competing at various National and International events, both in the UK and on the continent.

Since our last report Rachel Haslau has now arrived in Belgium and has competed at a number of events including Lahden (GER) CAI-A. Unfortunately Rachel retired before the Cones but was happy with her performance. She has also had some coaching with Theo Timmerman and is confident she will be competing at Breda (NED) in early July with a strong attempt to qualify.

Bob Edwards has been doing a substantial amount of training at Boyd's stables. Having competed at Royal Windsor CAI-W and a UK National Event at Farleigh in Hampshire, Bob heads off to Sandringham this weekend for another UK National Event where International Judges will be present. By all reports, the horses are coming along nicely and Bob and Boyd are making a number of changes to the combination. Bob's team of Cleveland Bays were also driven by Boyd Exell at Royal Ascot last weekend where they performed admirably. Bob also flew to Altenfelden (AUT) CAI-A where he assisted Boyd and Robert Wilkinson with their respective teams.

Boyd Exell also drove his team HC at Farleigh after making some changes to his lead horses for the cross-country. Unfortunately during the event, one of the horses went down with colic and was rushed to an equine hospital but luckily avoided any operation and is now back in work. Boyd then headed off to Altenfelden (AUT) CAI-A where he did a superb dressage coming second to Chardon by only 0.1 penalties! Again, Boyd struck bad luck with one of the horses pulling up slightly lame at the Marathon vet check and was subsequently eliminated. By all reports, the tracks were very rough and stony. Such bad luck to be spun so far from home. Boyd is now preparing his horses for Breda (NED) CAIO.

We are hoping to be able to report by the next newsletter that at least Bob or Rachel have managed to qualify for WEG - fingers crossed they both will.



Bob Edward's CB Team



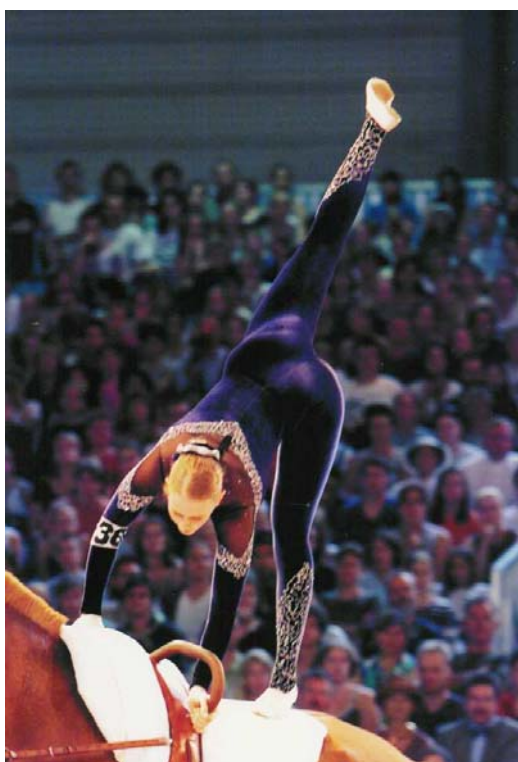
Chef d' Equipe Bob Hennig

bobhennig@optusnet.com.au

Tristyn Lowe and Kayla Brewer competed at the CVI in Houten (NED) last weekend 1-2 July. Tristyn finished in second place with a score 7.5 (she was in first place after compulsories). This is the highest an Aussie female has placed at an international competition so far. Kayla Brewer performed well, too, and has now qualified for WEG with a score of 6.2. Well done girls!

Tristyn will be one of the female Vaulters representing Australia at the World Equestrian Games in Aachen. Tristyn is 26 years old and lives in Canberra and has competed in international vaulting competitions since 1996. She has been NSW and Australian Champion from 1997-2003 and also in 2005. At the World Championships in 2000 Tristyn was the first Australian female ever to qualify for the finals with the German horse *Aladin*, lunged by Sven Henze. At the 2002 WEG in Spain, Tristyn placed fourth in the first round compulsories and sixth overall on the Danish horse *Leonardo* lunged by Lasse Kristensen.

Tristyn works at the National Equestrian Centre in Canberra as an EFA NCAS Level 1 General Coach



Tristyn Lowe

and Level 2 Vaulting Coach. Her extensive international equestrian experiences enable her to conduct clinics internationally and locally in vaulting, lunging and riding. Tristyn has also completed a BA/BSc at the Australian National University. She is the current Australian and NSW Coaching coordinator for Vaulting.

Unfortunately last year at Equitana in Melbourne, Tristyn sustained an injury to her knee which required reconstructive surgery. She returned to vaulting training in January and is continuing rehabilitation for her knee with the hope that it will have gained full strength before WEG.

Tristyn is already in Europe and is currently training with various coaches and trialling horses. At the CVI** at Stadl Paura, Austria 26-28 May, Tristyn qualified for WEG with an overall score of 7.067. Despite the limitations of her recent knee reconstruction she placed 12th overall and ninth in the new FEI technical test. She was fortunate to be invited by top Austrian vaulter Sissy Janz (who won the CVI) to share her horse *Escudo Fox*. Tristyn will now be concentrating on preparations for two further CVIs in Holland and Germany in a lead up to WEG and to re-establish her top ten ranking.

We wish Tristyn, as well as Samantha Blunden and Kayla Brewer the best of luck for their final preparations for the World Equestrian Games.



Chef d' Equipe Dr Patricia Mackay Annetts

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The horses have now been examined by the Chef and the Team Veterinarian and we have entered the final stages of the training program and are preparing for the flight to Europe.

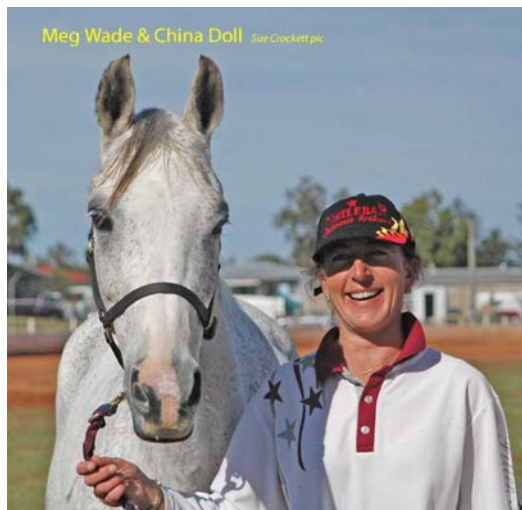
This month we will look at the two leading riders on the Aachen short list, Penny Toft and Meg Wade.

Meg, along with partner Chris Gates operate one of the two dominant Australian commercial Endurance operations, Castlebar.

Meg has been riding endurance for 18 years and has an outstanding record of international achievement. She was ranked second in the world in 2001 and 2002 and fifth in 2003. Meg was a member of the medal winning Australian

Endurance teams in 1994 (WEG Team Bronze), 1998 (WEG Team Bronze), 2002 (WEG Team Bronze).

Meg has had three Australian National Championship Tom Quilty Cup wins, and has completed more than forty 160km rides in her career.



Meg is nominated for the WEG Endurance team with China Doll, an unregistered Arabian Stock Horse mare. (Unconfirmed breeding: by Chalani Pacesetter (ASH) out of Warrondi Pearl). China Doll and Meg have already made some statements of intent.

Meg placed first and BC Open at Gatton CEI*** in May 2005, followed up by a great run in the European Championships at Compiègne France in August of 2005. Leading for much of the ride, Meg was pipped at the final run to the line and finished a courageous fifth in 9 hrs 17min, an average speed of 17.47 km/h for the 160km course.

China Doll completed the recent 160m Boonah Tom Quilty Cup with a steady eighth place completion providing a great springboard for an outstanding WEG performance. Meg also has a reserve horse in Europe, Wybalena Lodge Shuska who this week placed fifth in a very hot and tough 160km *** in France gaining qualification for WEG.

Coming into the endurance world much later than Meg Wade is Penny Toft, who has had a stellar career to date. Penny comes from an equestrian family and spent much of her youth showing, riding and training hacks and ponies (as recently as 2004, Penny was judging ponies at the Sydney Royal).

Marriage into the Toft Arabian "dynasty" has seen her natural talent, determination and discipline rewarded with some outstanding achievements. In the last seven years Penny has completed more than twenty 160km rides. In August 2000, Penny and *Bremervale Justice*, were members of the Gold medal winning team at the Compiègne World Championships CEIO****.

In 2001 Penny was a valiant third under difficult conditions at the West Australian Tom Quilty, again on Justice. In 2002, Penny was a member of the Bronze medal winning team at WEG in Jerez Spain, again on Justice. In 2003, at the Tom Quilty in Canowindra NSW, Penny placed third m/w, again the partner was BV Justice. In 2004, an outstanding "fly and ride" Tevis Cup U.S.A completion for 17th place, again on you know who. Is this a team or is this not a team!

In 2005 Penny was a member of the Silver Medal winning team at the World Endurance Championships in Dubai UAE.

Special mention should be made of the outstanding achievements of Penny's likely WEG partner *Bremervale Justice*. He is a 13 year old Purebred Arabian Gelding by *Rave VF* (US) x *Bremervale Katische* (Oxford Decimus).

BV Justice is perhaps the most successful endurance horse in the world with 17 x 160km completions, nationally 3 x first 160km placings, 2 x second 160km placings, 3 x third 160km placings.



Internationally, he has an impressive record:

- 2000 Team Gold with Penny Toft World Championships in Compiègne France
- 2002 Team Bronze with Penny Toft World Equestrian Games, Jerez, Spain.
- 2005 Team Silver with Kristie McGaffin World Endurance Championships Dubai
- 2005 Tevis Cup USA 17th place with Penny Toft.
- 2006 Only halfway through the year and Justice placed 1st two weeks ago in the Hwt at the Boonah Tom Quilty 160km National Championship with Warwick Toft, a nice little warm up for the main event. Bring on Aachen!

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