

Manitoba Horse Council

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Fierce Competition between Eastern and Western Manitoba Teams

A total of 32 equestrian competitors participated in the 1st Annual Manitoba Horse Council Multi-Discipline Team Championship competition held at the Manitoba Horse Council Facility in Bird's Hill Park in mid-September. The competition consisted of Show Jumping, Dressage and Driving and there was strong competition between the Eastman and Westman teams in each category.

The showjumping competition consisted of 2 rounds over a 3'3" high jumps and also a 3'6" high course and was won by the Eastman Team.

Individual medals in Showjumping were awarded as follows:

- Gold: 3'3" Cassandra Sinnock & Sky Dancer (Eastman) (Junior)
- Silver: 3'3" Emily Matthes & Kabul (Eastman)
- Bronze: 3'3" Kelly Campbell & WKM Pizazz (Westman)
- Gold: 3'6" Jennifer Rempel & Sam (Eastman)
- Silver: 3'6" Gabrielle Oleski & Romancer (Eastman) (Junior 13yrs)
- Bronze: 3'6" Jennifer McPhail & Milo (Westman)

The Dressage phase of the competition consisted of First Level Tests and was won by the Eastman Team.

Individual medals in Dressage were awarded as follows:

- Gold: Cassandra Sinnock & Legend (Top Junior, Eastman)
- Silver: Megan Peterson & Pik Sun (Eastman)
- Bronze: Kyra Kuebler & Mary Poppins (Junior, Eastman)
- Chelsea Haggarty & Double Hopscotch (Top Westman Junior rider)

The Driving portion of the competition resulted in a strong showing by the Westman Team, especially by the Junior drivers as young Erika Rob beat out International competitor Fred Gutoski and the experienced Duane Stewart.

Individual medals in Driving were awarded as follows:

- Gold: Erika Rob (Westman)
- Silver: Fred Gutoski (Eastman)
- Bronze: Duane Stewart (Westman)
- Top Westman Junior (11 yrs old) Tara Megisson
- Top Eastman Junior (under 14) Bryanna Down



Gold Dressage Medalist
Cassandra Sinnock and Legend.
Cassandra also medaled in Show
Jumping on Sky Dancer.



Gold 3'6" Medalist Jennifer Rempel, the
only rider clear over 4 rounds.



Members of the Eastman team, with Dave Myers, President of Manitoba Horse Council, and the inaugural Challenge Cup.

The winning team comprised show jumpers, dressage and drivers, but without a specialised camera it was impossible to collect all competitors in one photo. Check www.horsecountry.ca's Photo Gallery for individual Gold Medal pictures. If a compilation of all the winners can be made, it will be there.



Top Eastman Junior (Driving) was Bryanna Down from Oakbank, MB. She proceeded to handily beat her father Don — with the same carriage and Clipper, the horse. Bryanna groomed for her father, and also for senior competitor, Irene Malone. She was a busy lady that weekend.



Erika Rob from Oakbank, MB, with sister Hannah as groom and Kiowa, being presented with the Westman Gold Medal in Driving by Dave Myers. Kiowa was one of three black and white paints in the competition, and is also Erika's barrel racing horse.



Eleven year-old Westman Jr Driving medalist Tara Meggison and her Shetland pony, JR. Her grandmother groomed for her.



Jennifer McPhail and Milo, 3'3"
Westman Show Jumper



Megan Petersen and Piksun,
Eastman Dressage



Kyra Keubler and Mary Poppins, Eastman Junior Dressage

When Three's Company!

The three-discipline, Eastman/Westman challenge held September 12 and 13 was the brainchild of Danae Martin, Chair of Athlete Development for Manitoba Horse Council. With a team made up of Geri Sweet, Facilities Manager at MHC's Equestrian Centre at Birds Hill Park, Pat Ferguson, Chair of Marketing, and MHC Executive Director Sheryl Hobbs, Danae was the driving force behind a province-wide event to follow the FEI pattern of collective jumping, driving, dressage and reining. This year the event was unable to include the reiners due to conflicting schedules but Danae is hopeful for next year. Marketing and promotional support came from Equine Canada, Manitoba Sport Federation and Manitoba Horse Council.

Donna Hammer was the only out-of-province official, who set the course for the show jumpers. The same ring contained the combined cones/hazard/obstacle course for the driving element so it was interesting for the riders/drivers to negotiate around unusual elements. Dressage judge was Elaine Banfield; Jumping judge was Marg Teske. A ground jury of five experienced drivers from Manitoba Driving Society judged the driving element. Steward for the event was Darryl Freed.

Westman Dressage competitor Chelsea Haggarty brought her 9 year-old paint, Double Hopscotch, from Brandon, and said, "My coach suggested that I enter. It's good practice as everyone does the same test, but we have to memorise it as we are not allowed anyone to read the test during competition.

Shonah Rathwell (who practices her dressage tests without letters, but using cones or flower tubs) said the competition was a great way to get to know other horse people. With her Arabian Rising Mystique (Chance), she found it was good experience.

The driving element was remarkable for the number of family teams; father/daughter, grandmother/granddaughter, two sisters, husband/wife, etc. Skill and finesse was required as for part of the course the cones which the carriages had to pass through was only 20 cm wider than the width of the carriage. Light yellow balls on top of the cones were easily dislodged if knocked. However, on the final segment of the course, drivers were required to knock the balls off with their whips (see photo bottom right).

In his presentation speech, Dave Myers, President of Manitoba Horse Council, congratulated all competitors and thanked the volunteers, judges and groundcrew without



Kelly Campbell and WKM Pizzazz, Eastman 3'3"
Show Jumper.



Tom Biron and Three Cups Applejack, 3'6"
Eastman Show Jumper.



Irene Malone and Skorad, Eastman Driver.



Michele Davis Ralston and CF Nitelife, Westman Driver.

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