



# OPERATION **GREENWICH GOLD**

*galloping to glory in 2012*

An official newsletter of the *AUSTRALIAN EQUESTRIAN TEAM*

Issue 3, Jan 2012

**Less than  
200 days to  
go!**

## Upcoming events

- 16 Jan Shadow Team announced
- 28-29 Jan Boneo Park CDI3\*
- 13-16 Feb AIS squad camp
- 18-19 Feb Orange CDI-W
- 24-29 Feb Elite squad camp, UK
- 29 Feb – 4 Mar CSIO4\* NC Florida, USA



## London Bound

While the Olympic and Paralympic Shadow Team has been announced and the main focus is on those who have been named in their respective Elite National Squads, there is still the opportunity for riders to force their way from the A Squads to the Elite Squads, and indeed from outside the National Squads & Shadow Team with outstanding performances at key events both in Australia, Europe and the US in the coming months.

The 31 December deadline that required all horses to be registered under the NF they will compete for at the 2012 Olympic Games has now passed. Many thanks to Michelle Battams who spent New Year's Eve and into New Year's Day finalising the transfer of some horses into Australian registration which provided some very worthy additions to the list of horses available for AUS to compete at the Games.

Congratulations once again to those selected onto our Olympic and Paralympic Shadow Team and best wishes for your preparations in the months ahead.

*Brett Mace  
High Performance Manager  
2012 Olympic Team Equestrian Section Manager*



## FEI signs off on London footing

The FEI has given final sign-off on the footing that will be used for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Equestrian Events at Greenwich Park. [Read more...](#)



## Shadow Team announced

*EA National Elite Squads form our 'Olympic & Paralympic Shadow Teams'*

EA has announced the horse and rider combinations that form the shadow team for this year's Olympic and Paralympic Games in London.

The shadow team consists of "Elite" and "A" listed combinations for each discipline, Dressage, Eventing, Jumping and Para-Equestrian.

The "Elite" list are the combinations who at present are the front-runners for Olympic nomination, however, our "A" Squads may come into contention due to exceptional performances ahead of London.

"Through the National Performance Directors and Selection panels, we will continue to monitor our combinations at major events prior to nominations being due to the Australian Paralympic Committee (APC) and the Australian Olympic Committee (AOC) in May and June" said Brett Mace, High

Performance Manager.

"With a mixture of experienced Olympians and Paralympians on this Shadow Team, along with some very high quality riders looking to make their first Olympic/Paralympic team, I am confident we can justify our high expectations for medal performances in London," he added.

EA would like to congratulate the riders, owners and teams behind the selected combinations.

2012 Olympic and Paralympic Equestrian Shadow Squads are linked below:

[DRESSAGE](#)

[EVENTING](#)

[JUMPING](#)

[PARA-EQUESTRIAN](#)

Note: Combinations will not be listed on the EA National Squads (and therefore the shadow team) unless they have returned their signed

'Consent to Nomination Form' to the EA office. The inclusion of some combinations is still pending this paperwork and they will be added in due course.

Combinations not currently listed may be added to the shadow team in the coming months should performances warrant their inclusion.

EA will nominate the teams to the AOC on or before the following dates:

Dressage 6 June 2012

Jumping 6 June 2012

Eventing 18 June 2012

Para-Equestrian 24 May 2012 (to APC).

EA National Young Rider Squads will be announced 3 February.

Olympic news can be found on the AET website [www.aet.equestrian.org.au](http://www.aet.equestrian.org.au)



**Australian Government**  
**Australian Sports Commission**



**Did you know Sydney CCI3\* will be held 27-29 April 2012. Other classes will be run as CIC in April and CCI in November**



### Deborah MacNicol - DRESSAGE

2012 has arrived and, of course, we are now in the year of the London Olympic Games.

Our first mission last November was to qualify a dressage team place for Australia and there is no doubt this was done in fine style. Three countries, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa were vying for the 2 available team places from our region.

The selectors decided to name 2 combinations for the Sydney leg of the Regional qualifier and 2 for the Ermelo leg in Holland. The Sydney leg was held in conjunction with the Australian Dressage Championships and Australia's 2 representatives were Rachael Sanna with *Jaybee Alabaster* and Chantal Wigan with *Ferero*. New Zealand fielded their full team in Sydney, so there was then a rather tense wait for the next 5 days while the judges completed their Sydney duties and then travelled back to Europe for the qualifier in Ermelo. Our 2 representatives in the 2<sup>nd</sup> leg were Lyndal Oatley on *Potifar* and Mary Hanna with



## From the NPDs (National Performance Directors)

*Sancette*. Who would have thought that our qualification would have been achieved in such emphatic style and my congratulations to the team for their mighty effort. South Africa also fielded their team at Ermelo.

We currently have 8 combinations who have achieved the minimum eligibility standard (MES) which is required by the FEI for qualification for London and we have another two or three combinations half way there which shows Australian dressage is proving to be alive and well and is becoming stronger in the international arena.

This cannot happen however without the inspiration of those who have 'paved the way' and in 2011 Australia lost two such horses that produced such motivating performances.

Eduardo Fisher's *Relampago do Retiro* ridden by Hayley Beresford represented Australia at the 2008 Beijing Olympics in Hong Kong and the WEG in Kentucky in 2010. This little Lusitano stallion was a brave and sometimes arrogant horse but would always manage to put a smile on your face as he was doing his very best in the competition arena.

Carolyn Lieutenant's *Victory Salute* with rider Brett Parbery was an honest, hard working inspirational horse and his performance in two disciplines – a Bronze Medal at the 2008 Beijing Paralympics and of course his remarkable performance at the 2012 WEG in Kentucky has set the benchmark for all Australian dressage riders and horses.

The recent Pacific league World Cup qualifier was held in Melbourne in December and the Leagues 2012 World Cup representative is Rachael Sanna and *Jaybee Alabaster*. They will leave Australia in mid February heading for Europe to prepare for the World Cup to be held in s'Hertogenbosch in April 2012.

While the riders are preparing and training for the nomination events to be held in Europe in May and June, behind the scenes there is an immense amount of preparation continuing with the view that we will present the best Olympic Dressage team we have ever had.

## Recent National Media

### Print

12 Sep [Olympic bid by 'Brumby' – The Australian](#)

12 Nov [Equestrian gets a silver lining- The Advertiser](#)

10 Nov [Horse Trials of Olympic proportions – The Advertiser](#)

18 Nov [Equestrian Stars comeback horse wins – SMH](#)

19 Nov - [Weather puts wind up Olympic hopes – The Advertiser](#)

20 Nov [Tinney wins Australian International – SMH](#)

20 Nov [Second win for Tinney - The Advertiser](#)

10 Dec – [Blonde Ambition - SMH](#)

21 Nov- [No hurdle too tall for Tinney – The Advertiser](#)

21 Nov [Equestrian star Stuart Tinney shocked by Adelaide success – Herald Sun](#)

29 Nov - [Aussie equestrian star Edwina Tops-Alexander rated no.1 The Advertiser](#)

24 Dec [Luxury Brands saddle up for sporting chic – The Australian](#)

26 Dec [Tops billing: champ returns to where it all began - SMH](#)

8 Jan [This sporting Life – Edwina Alexander – Sun Herald](#)

9 Jan [Aussie nabs top British Show Jumper just in time -The Australian](#)

11 Jan Rouse Hill Times – [Hannah Dodd](#)

20 Jan - [Equestrian senses London luck change - Clayton Fredericks Wide World of Sports Online](#)

### Broadcast

16 May Sunrise – [Weekend of World Cups](#)

29 May Weekend Sunrise –[Sue Ellen Lovett](#)

11 Sep Ch 7 weather –live broadcast from Sydney 3DE

1 Jan Ch 9 - Equestrian Grand Final 1 hr package

7 Jan Ch 7- Adelaide 3DE 1 hr package

5/7/9 Jan Fox - Equestrian Grand Final

## Prue Barrett - EVENTING

We finished the year with some very impressive performances at Adelaide CCI\*\*\*\*. Adelaide proved to be a great event for Australian based combinations in their preparations for London this year. These riders will go on to compete at Sydney in April over a brand new course designed by Mike Etherington-Smith. Sydney will certainly be a very exciting contest with the Olympics less than 90 days following.

At the end of February we are holding our 1st UK based squad training camp which will include all 3 National Squads. There are 29 UK based combinations included in Elite, "A" and Futures Squads. This clinic will be held at the Unicorn Trust Equestrian Centre and will include coaching from Brett Parbery and Gilbert Boeckmann.

Have you been in the media lately? If you have been interviewed let us know so we can direct traffic to the interview.



Above: Stuart Tinney and Panamera on their way to winning the 2011 A13DE CCI4\*

**FEI** Olympic news and qualification info [here](#)

Have you read the AOC newsletter?? [Sign up here](#)

## CONGRATUALTIONS to the Dressage and Para-Equestrian Teams who, in late 2011, each successfully qualified for the 2012 Games!

The Dressage team consisted of:

**Mary Hanna and Sancette**, owned by Mrs. Mary Hanna & Mr. Rob Hanna  
**Lyndal Oatley and Potifar**, owned by Mr. Andrew Oatley & Mrs. Carol Oatley  
**Rachael Sanna and Jaybee Alabaster**, owned by Mrs. Bev Edwards & Mr. John Edwards  
**Chantal Wigan and Ferero**, owned by Ms. Chantal Wigan & Mr. Gary Fairman

Full report can be viewed [\[HERE\]](#)

The Para-Equestrian Team consisted of:

**Grace Bowman and Kirby Park Irish Joy**, owned by Grace Bowman  
**Hannah Dodd on Waikiwi**, owned by Victoria McBeath  
**Sharon Jarvis on Showdown**, owned by Dr. Michael Procter  
**Jan Pike and Pinky**, owned by Catherine Shelley

Full report can be viewed [\[HERE\]](#)

ATTN Journalists: Apply now to the Australian Paralympic Committee (APC) for Paralympic media accreditation. The APC be accepting media accreditation applications from January 27. Email the APC at [media@paralympic.org.au](mailto:media@paralympic.org.au) . [More.....](#)

## Stephen Lamb - JUMPING

The December 31<sup>st</sup> deadline for horses to be eligible to compete for their designated nation at this year's London Olympics caused an even bigger flurry of horse trading than in previous years.

There were several articles in the mainstream press in both Australia and the UK regarding Team GBR losing two horses to Saudi Arabia and one to Australia, with Edwina securing the ride on *Titus*, (previously ridden by Guy Williams). Edwina also has her main Games contender *Itot* back in full swing and another recently acquisition in *Vluet*.

With final nomination events for the Jumping team being confirmed as CSI 4\* at Linz (Austria) on the 10<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> of May and then CSI 4\* Bourge en Bresse (France) from May 30 to June 2<sup>nd</sup>, the countdown is now well and truly on.

European based Australian riders are now gearing up their campaigns for the 13 weeks before the first nomination event. Edwina Tops-Alexander will focus on the Global Champions Tour as she prepares her horses. James Paterson-Robinson has made sure he will have a horse to compete as Australian with no less than 5 horses being available including *Qulander*, *Umlaron* and more recently *Vincente*. Amy Graham with *Bella Baloubet* has been successful in her recent outing at Mechelen and has also secured the ride on 11yo stallion *Nouma d'Auzay*. James and Amy will continue their lead up by heading for the Spain where there are many good international competitions outdoors. James Passy has been able to transfer *Enjoy 68* and *Carry Star* into his name and will be campaigning in Italy. Julia Hargreaves returned from a visit to Australia and will also be headed to the southern countries where jumping outdoors will be available as Europe moves out of winter. Paul Athanasoff and Danielle Butcher will take their horses to Italy when they arrive in Europe next month.

While the European circuit is currently focussed on the indoor season, our riders in North America are focussed on the Winter Equestrian Festival in Wellington, Florida to provide them with their preparation prior to heading to the selection events. Australia will field a Nations Cup team in Florida on March 2<sup>nd</sup> in Wellington, which will provide a great opportunity for the likes of Harley Brown with

*Cassiato* and *Angelli*, Matt Williams and *Watch Me Mangelaar* and recently reacquainted with *Bolero van T'Heike* and Jamie Kermond with *Colthaga*. Other Australian riders in Florida include Thaisa Erwin and *Matilda*, Mark Lindh with *Coolio* and soon to be joined by Cathy Graham and her pint sized rocket *DaVincis Pride*.

The WEF lasts for an incredible 10 weeks (with a different course designer each week), the Nations Cup is on during week 8, whilst week 4 will feature Olympic Course designer Bob Ellis.

*Below: Edwina Tops-Alexander met with media and some fans at Centennial Park in December. This press call generated some great publicity with Channel 9, the Sydney Morning Herald, The Australian, Fox Sports, Foxtel, and Gucci all interviewing Edwina. Thanks to Edwina for her co-operation*



Equestrian Australia including the Australian Equestrian Team thanks its program partners & sponsors....



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