

Bendigo Pony Club
P.O. Box 2257
Bendigo Mail Centre 3554

November/December 2009

Pony Express

WISHING ALL OUR PONY CLUB FAMILIES A MERRY AND SAFE CHRISTMAS



November

14th - Bealiba Showjumping & Dressage

27th - Maryborough School Competition

December

13th - Midland Zone Showjumping & Dressage State Qualifier



BIRTHDAYS

NOVEMBER

Emmaby Barton - 22nd

Hannah Trahair - 7th

DECEMBER

Melissa Harvey - 15th

Morgan Marshall - 2nd

Samantha McIntyre -



Structural correctness

Structural correctness affects the action and soundness of horses. When the front legs are viewed from the front, a line should bisect the forearm, knee, cannon, fetlock and the bulb of the heel (Figure 4). If the toes point outward, the horse is splay-footed; if the toes point inward, the horse is considered pigeon-toed. Typically pigeon-toed horses wing out and splay-footed horses wing in when walking. When the front legs are viewed from the side, the knees should be flat.

When a horse is viewed from behind, a line should bisect the gaskin, hock, cannon, fetlock, pastern and foot. If the horse's hocks turn inward, the horse is considered cow-hocked. When the legs are viewed from the side, a straight line drawn downward from the back of the buttock should touch the back of the hock, cannon and fetlock. If the horse has too much angle in the hocks, then it is considered to be sickle-hocked. If the leg is forward of this line and too straight, the horse is considered post-legged.

Pasterns should be of medium length, be strong but flexible, and have a medium slope. The hoof should have the same angle as the pastern and should be of moderate size but deep and wide at the heel, and free of rings. The slope of the shoulders and pasterns, combined with the expansion of the heel, provides shock absorption when the horse is in motion. Bones should be of adequate size and should show definition of joints and appear flat when viewed from the side.

Deviation from these points of structural correctness predisposes a horse to unsoundness and wasted motion. Bone spavins, bogs, thoroughpins and weakness are common among sickle-hocked horses. Jarring from short, straight pasterns and shoulders predisposes a horse to side bones, stiffness, bogs and lameness.

Breed and sex characteristics

Breed and sex characteristics of a horse define its quality. A horse should exhibit the characteristics that progressive breeders look for — in short, the breed's icon. Quality is indicated by refinement of head, bone, joints and hair coat. It is reflected in thin skin, prominent veins, and the absence of coarseness, especially in the legs. A quality horse has more attractiveness and eye appeal, including prominent sex characteristics. A stallion should appear more powerful and stately than a mare. A stallion's head should have a masculine jaw, whereas the mare should be a picture of refined femininity. The gelding falls between the two.

Summary

An outstanding horse will exhibit superior conformation whether it is a halter horse, pleasure horse or racehorse. Some horse judges support fads and are more forgiving of certain faults than others. However, a horse's form is related directly to function. In the long run, whenever you sacrifice certain qualities of conformation, a limitation in ability will occur. When evaluating horses, the ideal will always be in demand; there is no substitute for quality.

END OF YEAR REPORT - 2009

Hello All,

The beginning of 2009 was marred by the tragedy of the bushfires and the terrible stories we heard about people and animals, including horses, perishing in the fires. This catastrophic event raised our awareness about the importance of a fire plan. I personally had never really thought about what we would do with our horses in the event of a bushfire but the fact that the fires affected Bendigo prompted our family to form a fire plan, as I am sure it has with all our members.

On a brighter note Bendigo Pony Club was again well represented at the Royal Melbourne Horse Show at Werribee in January. The classes were huge with up to 50 entries per class and to have our members competing successfully amongst such stiff competition is a big achievement. Good luck to those of you who are competing at Summer Royal in 2010.

In March Tori Faull, Ashlea Howard, Hannah Trahair, Samantha McIntyre, Penny Loader, Maddison Maud and Emma Lea easily passed their C certificates and then we were into April and the Donaldson Day rally. Congratulations to the 2009 'D Day' Highpoint winners, Georgia Welch, Maddison Maud, Emma Lea and Morgan-Rose Maud.

April was also the month of the Interschool competition which was again a very successful event. We received positive feedback and suggestions on ways to improve the weekend, some of which we will implement to ensure that the Interschool's keeps growing and evolving. One comment that I constantly receive from members from other clubs is that they are amazed at how our club manages to successfully run such a huge weekend of competition. As a club we can all be so proud of what we have achieved with the success of the Interschool's. The profits from this event have gone a long way to funding some major assets for our club over the last three years including the ménage, the Jump 4 Joy show jumps, the photo copier, the ride on mower, the portable dressage arenas and our new cross country jumps.

The clubs AGM was held at the end of April and all the executive committee members agreed to stay on for another year. Mary Donaldson as President, John Faull as Vice President, Kerrie Long as Treasurer, and Deb Degenhardt as Secretary. The club is very grateful to these people for their dedication to these various roles over the years but there will come a time (maybe in the not too distant future) when some or all of these key people decide to step down and I encourage new members with young riders to seriously think about getting more involved with your club and joining the general committee. I believe a club is as only as strong as its committee and with the date of our clubs impending move to Strathfieldsaye getting closer it is essential that we have a strong, united committee in place.

Aussie Jingle Bells

Dashing through the bush
In a rusty Holden Ute
Kicking up the dust
Esky in the boot
Kelpie by my side
Singing Christmas songs
It's summer time and I am
in
My singlet, shorts &
thongs

CHORUS:
OH, JINGLE BELLS, JIN-
GLE BELLS
JINGLE ALL THE WAY
CHRISTMAS IN AUS-
TRALIA
ON A SCORCHING SUM-
MER'S DAY
JINGLE BELLS, JINGLE
BELLS
CHRISTMAS TIME IS
BEAUT
OH WHAT FUN IT IS TO
RIDE
IN A RUSTY HOLDEN
UTE

Engine's getting hot
Dodge the kangaroos
Swaggy climbs aboard
He is welcome too
All the family is there
Sitting by the pool
Christmas day, the Aussie
way
By the barbecue!

CHORUS

Come the afternoon
Grandpa has a doze
The kids and uncle Bruce
Are swimming in their
clothes
The time comes round to
go
We take a family snap
Then pack the car and all
shoot through
Before the washing up

CHORUS

Keep an old strainer near your horse's water trough. It's handy for scooping any leaves or twigs that may have fallen in.

If you want to take your own water supply to a show but don't have a bucket with a lid, put an ordinary plastic garbage bag in the bucket first, fill with water, twist the top closed and tie with a knot. This stops spills and splashing.

Put hoof black cans in a plastic mug with a handle, it catches the drips from the tin and gives you something to hold on to.



During the year the committee has had many meetings with the Bendigo City council to discuss the clubs relocation. The most recent meeting was very positive due mainly to the excellent proposal prepared and professionally presented by Michael Carty. As a new parent to the club we are all very grateful for to Michael for his involvement and initiative.

The first weekend in May was the date for the State Horse Trials hosted by the Midland Zone. Bendigo Pony club members did an amazing job catering in the VIP tent as well as helping where needed throughout the weekend. Without the generosity of John and Karen Faull who loaned the Zone two huge water tanks, hosting the event at the Goornong venue would have been impossible.

July was the month for our dressage and show jumping championship at the show grounds and in August some of our members trooped off to Bealiba to compete in the Midland Zone Flat & Show Jumping Team Shield. Our Flat team of Morgan Maud, Shannon Stone, Hannah Mika and Shaleah Bray did a great job to place 6th. These same riders along with Samuel Nielsen, Tori Faull, Tegan Tresize and Ashlea Howard also competed in the show jumping events. During the presentations Britt Holmberg was awarded the Pony Club Award of Merit for service to Pony Club and Peggy Mills who is a good friend to our club and a very important member of the Midland Zone was awarded a Zone life membership.

On September 13th we held our inaugural EFA affiliated open horse show which included the Jack McKenna memorial event. The day went very smoothly and as is usual with a first time event we learned some things and have plans to make next year's event bigger and better.

Our new portable cross country jumps arrived in October and they look fabulous! Clinton Hedger did a great job building the jumps and John Faull was kind enough to loan the use of a shed for the jumps to be built in. The jumps can be moved to our new home and until then our riders have the chance to school over the jumps at each rally.

Congratulations to all Bendigo Pony Club riders for their individual successes at the 150th Bendigo Show during the last weekend in October. Samantha McIntyre and Chester have developed into a lovely combination and had a very successful show winning both the Kristy Grinton award for Supreme Pony Club Rider and the Alison Bogumil award for the most successful combination in the pony club events.

As DC I am very grateful to the fantastic instructors who teach our kids every month. Bendigo Pony Club has long had a reputation for quality instruction and as these instructors services become more in demand I am grateful for the commitment that our instructors have undertaken to teach our kids for 2010. These include Lynn Macintyre, Jason Scott, Wayne Hurse, Rowan Anderson, Brian Davidge, Deb Browell, Liam Hartz, Allan Mitchell and Laura Mow. Thank you one and all!

With the move to our new home the club will have the capacity to grow its member base.

The future is looking bright for Bendigo Pony Club.

Merry Christmas and a happy, horsey 2010 to all,

SUE



“There’s nothing sadder in this world than to awake Christmas morning and not be a child”

How Not to Sell Your Horse

- Take photos of your horse when he is at leisure in the pasture. If he is dirty and shaggy, that just goes to show us how natural your ownership skills are.
- Why would you go to the effort to brush or bathe your horse to make him artificially clean when you could be doing better things like breeding more horses or dogs?
- Take pictures when he is not standing even, so potential buyers think he has a special number of legs-- maybe 3, or if you can get a post or object in the background, maybe 5 or more! Missing or extra legs helps catch the eye of viewers.
- Accentuate his head. Make sure he is standing with his head facing you so that his head appears three times larger than his body. Alternate this with photos that show us just the horse's butt; we all know this type of photo is flattering for horses and people.
- You may also want to include photos of your horse in front of crappy fencing, preferably barbed wire and falling down. Random crap in the pasture is a plus too. This shows that your horse is smart enough to never get injured on dangerous objects. No one wants a horse stupid enough to get sliced up on barbed wire!
- Everyone wants a horse that is 14.5 or 15.6.
- Measure your horse someplace other than the withers (and don't provide the wither measurement):
"She is already 15-2 at the hip"
- Horses that have protruding bones not only show us that you are financially conscientious (what real horse person would spend excess money on feed?) but we can also evaluate the horse's internal as well as external conformation.
- Them thar bleedin' heart horse lovers is a bunch of sissys. Real horse people beat their horses when they act up and sell'm when they ain't no good no more. Show us you're a real horse person by getting rid of the animals that no longer bring you a profit. Because horses are just a part of business, not much different than selling used vehicles or buying new clothes when they are no longer in style. It's not like they should be retired or cared for in their old age for all they've done for you during their life.

Melbourne Cup

ONLY IN AMERICA!!!!!!The greatest attraction in Atlantic City for most of the century was the Steel Pier Diving Horses. The Diving Horses ceased in 1978. (This is a true story!!!!!!)



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The first Melbourne Cup was run in 1861 at Flemington Race Course and was won by Archer. The prize was a gold watch and £170. In the late 1880s and 1890s, Carbine dominated the racing scene, and carried the greatest winning weight ever in a Melbourne Cup. For over a century, only two horses had won the Melbourne Cup twice: Archer (1861, 1862) and Peter Pan (1932, 1934). However, Makybe Diva won three Melbourne Cups between 2003 and 2005. The race is run over 3,200 metres and is a handicapped race. This means that the better the horse is, the more weight it has to carry in the race. The greatest weight carried to victory in a Melbourne Cup was Carbine, who carried 10 stone, 5 pound (66 kg) in the 1890 Melbourne Cup and was ridden by Bob Ramage. Phar Lap carried a greater weight, but not to victory. Phar Lap, in his last Melbourne Cup campaign in 1931, carried a 10 stone, 10 pound (68 kg) handicap. Even a horse with a heart as big as Phar Lap's couldn't overcome the extra weight, and the race was won by White Nose.

Even through wars and depression, the Melbourne Cup racing carnival has been one of the stayers of Australian cultural experience. Australia is one of the few countries where bookmakers are allowed to operate on course offering starting prizes (SP). This was legalised in 1882 and 1896 in an attempt to stamp out off-course SP 'bookies' who paid out on prices being quoted on the racecourse. Before the telephone, on-course prices were signalled with flags. This legislation did not stop SP bookmaking off-course. It is said that every second Australian household in the 1880s and early 1900s, on every Saturday afternoon, the average punter went to a local pub, corner grocer, barber or milkman and placed a bet with their SP bookie. From 1916, the bookies competed against a 'totaliser' machine, known as the 'tote', invented by George Julius, an engineer working in Western Australia. The machine calculated changing odds and the paying of dividends to winning punters. As the world's first automatic totalisator, Julius's company designed and supplied racecourse betting equipment throughout the world.

Phar Lap is perhaps Australia's most famous racehorse, combining stamina and speed. Foaled in New Zealand in 1926 by Night Raid out of Entreaty he grew to 17 hands. Over his career he won more than £65,000 in prize money and won 37 of his 51 starts. From September 1929 he was the favourite in all but one of his races. Phar Lap became the darling of Australian race crowds during the Great Depression of the 1930s - winning all four days of the 1930 Flemington Spring Carnival including the Melbourne Cup carrying 62.5 kg.

Phar Lap is the only horse to have started favourite in three successive Melbourne Cups. He came third in 1929, won the race in 1930 and ran eighth in 1931. The jockey who rode Phar Lap to victory in 1930 was Jimmy Pike. He is best known for his partnership with Phar Lap on whom he won 27 races from 30 rides. Pike also won two Caulfield Cups, six VRC Derbies (four of these in a row) and two Cox Plates, and was so renowned as a jockey that even to this day, racing experts and punters often say of a jockey that he 'rode it like J. Pike'. In 1932 Phar Lap was sent to Mexico for the Agua Caliente Handicap, the world's richest race at the time. Sixteen days later he died in San Francisco in suspicious circumstances, some believing he was poisoned. The opinion of the University of Sydney's School of Veterinary Science in 1932 was that he died of colic of unknown causes. In 2006, a report by the Australian Synchrotron Research Program stated 'arsenic in the horse's hair structure was consistent with a large, single dose of arsenic'. After Phar Lap's death, his bones were donated to Dominion Museum in New Zealand (now the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa), and his hide was mounted and put on display at Museum Victoria. In April 2008, Museum Victoria also acquired Phar Lap's tonic recipe book, which details 30 recipes used by Phar Lap's trainers to prepare him for races. Many ingredients in these recipes include poisonous substances such as arsenic and strychnine. Dr Robin Hirst, Acting Chief Executive Officer Museum Victoria said 'The significance of this exceptional book lies not only in its origins, but also in the evidence it potentially provides about Phar Lap's untimely death.'

Phar Lap's big heart now resides at the National Museum of Australia. Phar Lap's heart was remarkable for its size, weighing about 6.2 kg, compared with a normal horse's heart at 3.2 kg.