

LWSC January Newsletter 2017

Kung Hei Fat Choi! We would like to wish you all a good and prosperous year of the Rooster, from all of us here at LWSC.

Children's Challenge Cup



Woohoo! An excellent result for LWSC as for the third time out of the four years it's been running, and for the second year in a row, we have retained the title of the CCC! The final heat took place at BREC on Friday 13th January in which Lo Wu finished 2nd giving us the most points overall. We would like to say a huge well done to all riders who have competed in the various heats as every participant contributed to the overall winning result.



In-House Show Jumping

On Friday 20th January we held our first in-house competition of the year. It was a very successful evening with all horses and riders performing very well, we are very proud of you all! Our in-house competitions are a great opportunity for anyone who wants to gain some experience competing in a relaxed, familiar environment. Below is a list of the results from the various classes.

60cm

Carla Cousins & Happy Eagle – 1st
Melanie Young & Anneka – 2nd
Velvet Lung & Young Supreme – 3rd
Seth Thomas & Daisy – 4th
Sammie Lam & Toby – 5th
Jamie Young & Daisy – 6th

70cm

Velvet Lung & Young Supreme – 1st
Seth Thomas & Daisy – 2nd
Eva Lohan & Paddy – 3rd
Amelia Qvist & Jacob – 4th
Sammie Lam & Toby – 5th

80cm

Annabel Dyson & Koenigsberg – 1st
Gabby Thomas & Fun Faster – 2nd
Daniella Lin & Macaroon – 3rd
Leigh Thomas & Jigsaw – 4th
Fanny Samson & Paddy – 5th
Amelia Qvist & Jacob – 6th

90cm

Gaby Thomas & Fun Faster – 1st
Annabel Dyson & Koenigsberg – 2nd



BREC Competitions

Lo Wu Saddle Club has had some excellent results at every competition that we have attended over the last month. We'd like to say a huge well done to all of our riders and obviously, we are very proud of our horses too!

Dressage

On Saturday 7th January there was a dressage competition held at BREC. LWSC had very good results in all of the classes that we were entered in. Well done to all horses and riders!

Preparatory Test

Zoe Koerber & Roy – 1st

Velvet Lung & Taimawr Gwyn (David) – 2nd

Preliminary Test 1.2

Samantha Yu & Bentley – 1st

Zoe Koerber & Roy – 2nd

Amelia Qvist & Jacob – 3rd

Sofia Paymaster & Luminous – 4th

Melanie Young & Anneka – 5th

Preliminary Test 1.3

Amelia Qvist & Jacob – 2nd

Samantha Yu & Bentley – 3rd

Sofia Paymaster & Luminous – 5th

Novice Test 2.2

Gabby Thomas & Jigsaw – 1st

Daniella Lin & Macaroon – 2nd

Novice Test 2.3

Gabby Thomas & Jigsaw – 2nd

Daniella Lin & Macaroon – 5th

Eventing

On Sunday 8th January, LWSC horses & riders attended a One Day Event at BREC, and once again, we completed with some very good results. We had some horse and rider combinations that were competing for the first time in a One Day Event so a special well done to them, and everyone else, as everybody rode brilliantly!

50cm – 70cm

Annabel Dyson & Paddy – 1st

Christian Allderidge & Happy Eagle – 2nd

Christian Allderidge & Charlie Victor – 3rd

Nicolas Yu & Bentley – 4th

80cm – 100cm

Luci Friend & Macaroon – 2nd



Show Jumping

On the weekend of the 14th & 15th January, LWSC horses and riders attended a Show Jumping competition at BREC. We had a lot of riders who were competing there for their first time ever, so we would like to say a big well done to all of them for handling their nerves so well, and riding absolutely fantastically!

Saturday

Clear Round 50cm

Seth Thomas & Blondie – **Clear**

Saaga Niemi & Anneka – **Clear**

Cecilia Sum & Anthony – **Clear**

70cm

Jamie Young & Blondie – **1st**

Seth Thomas & Blondie – **2nd**

Cecilia Sum & Anneka – **4th**

Saaga Niemi & Anneka – **5th**

80cm

Gabby Thomas & Fun Faster – **1st**

Nicolas Yu & Bentley – **3rd**

90cm

Gabby Thomas & Fun Faster – **1st**

Nicolas Yu & Bentley – **2nd**

100cm

Christina Dyson & Koenigsberg – **1st**

110cm

Christina Dyson & Koenigsberg – **3rd**

Sunday

Clear Round 60cm

Carla Cousins & Happy Eagle – **Clear**

70cm

Sofia Paymaster & Luminous – **1st**

Annabel Dyson & Koenigsberg – **3rd**

Carla Cousins & Happy Eagle – **5th**

80cm

Sofia Paymaster & Luminous – **1st**

Annabel Dyson & Koenigsberg – **2nd**

90cm

Nicolas Yu & Bentley – **2nd**



Coming Up In The Next Month...

Quiz Evening



On Saturday 4th February, LWSC will be hosting a quiz evening. The quiz will be on general knowledge and will be open to everybody. It will start at 7:30pm prompt. Bring a dish to contribute to our buffet!

HKEF Interschool Challenge 2017

Our mini Interschool competitions have now been completed; we're confident that they have helped all competitors in their preparation for the HKEF Interschool Challenge. LWSC will be running all of the heats of the lower division competition and also the final of both, the higher and the lower divisions. The first heat will be on February 24th. Best of luck to all competitors throughout the competition.



Tim Downes Clinic

We have some provisional dates for Tim's 1st clinic of 2017. We are expecting Tim to be here between the 12th April and the 20th April. Although we are not taking any bookings yet, as dates still need to be confirmed, we wanted to let you all know the provisional dates as we are aware that his time here will be during the Easter holidays.

Many thanks!

Christina Dyson, 'Elite Team' Competition Member, and Owner of Livery Horse, Bertie, Talks to Lo Wu Saddle Club about Her Equestrian Career to Date

Interviewed by Melissa Troup

What inspired your initial interest in horses?



Christina and Topper - their first trip to Beas River. 2009

I used to talk incessantly about horses. I would see pictures of them, and constantly ask questions. When we returned to the UK on holiday, there was a riding school near my grandmother's house, and I used to ride there two or three times each summer between the ages of 4-7yrs old. I started riding once a week in Hong Kong at Lo Wu when I was seven.

You began riding at the 'Old Lo Wu'. What are your memories from there?

It was an enormous site. The current location of Lo Wu used to be the turnout and competition field. The horses and ponies were in stables housed under Army Nissan Huts. There was a specialist farrier area, and I remember considering myself very fortunate to be allowed to watch them shoe.

There are some older horses and ponies at Lo Wu now that started at Old Lo Wu - Give to Thee, Puff, Lucky Lucky, Tosca, Timmy and Hot Gossip.

The day we moved the horses over to the new site in 2007, we all rode them over, dressed up in cultural costume. I rode Flemming Star, and was dressed in a Chinese outfit that split when I got on the horse!



Lo Wu Saddle Club moving day. Christina and Flemming Star.

When did you start competing?

I competed at in house and fun competitions from 9 years old. There were a group of us who didn't necessarily ride in lessons at the same time, but we met at competitions. We are all friends to this day. Andrew Shellum started a competition group, and I can remember my first trip to Beas River was for training, with Louvinia and Raymond, Lo Wu yard manager. We took Topper, Imagination and Roy. I was 12 years old then, and it was a very big deal to take the horses outside Lo Wu.

You have been very focused on Show Jumping. What piqued your interest in the discipline?

I was originally taught by Lionel Dunning, and he was a Show Jumping trainer. I had no fear. I was really young, and had never seen anyone fall off. I had never fallen off. Later, Pippa taught me aspects of riding safely, and I also rode at Tuen Mun, where Berndt told me to be aware of the dangers, but not to let them put me off, and his wife, Christina, focused on my flatwork. I had a few gaps in my flatwork knowledge. I stepped away from jumping for a year in order to improve my position and ability to influence the horse correctly. It was during a family holiday to Ingestre when I was 14, that I jumped again, and remembered how much I enjoyed it.

It was wonderful to return to Ingestre two years later when we won the Interschool Competition.

You have a horse, Bertie. Can you tell us a little about the decision to take a livery?

I was riding about six times a week, time split between Lo Wu and Tuen Mun. Bertie was a recently retired ex-racehorse, new to Lo Wu, and I had the opportunity to ride him in lessons, whilst he was also being trained by the Instructors. I had been riding him for about six months when Deborah offered me the livery on him. He was a clean canvas and a good project to take on. Deborah believed that he would be a good show jumper, which he has turned out to be.



My parents were hesitant, but happy, and I committed my time fully to Bertie and Lo Wu. We saw a transformation with him really quickly. He has a terrible fear of water, and it was difficult initially to encourage him into the wash bay. He still has a fear of soap bubbles. He's fine when they are on him, but reacts when he see them going down the drain. It's taken a lot of patience and many sponge baths, but he's far more trusting now.

Christina and Koenigsberg (stable name 'Bertie') Trot up
for FEI Show Jumping Competition. Oct 2016.

What do you consider to be your biggest equestrian achievement?

Definitely winning the first round of the FEI Category C last year. The class is spread over two rounds, and the fences are between 1m - 1.10m. I'm very proud to have taken a green horse from poles to Category C in three years.

In the season 2014-15, he was competing at 50cm. Deborah believed that height was never going to be an issue, but he lacked understanding, co-ordination and confidence, and his reaction when things went wrong was to stop.

Then it clicked into place, and he understood, and we went from struggling with a 50cm round to going clear at 90cm in one season. I consider that first clear at 90cm almost as great an achievement as winning the Category C.



Christina and Bertie. The winning round for FEI Category C. Oct
2016.

What are your equestrian aims for the future?

Last year, I took my BHS Stages 1, 2 and Preliminary Teaching Test. This year I want to take the BHS Stage 3.

I will be going to University later this year, and Annabel, my sister, will take over Bertie. She's already competed him in dressage, and has started to jump him this season, but her passion is eventing, so we're going to focus on the XC. Once Bertie understood about show jumping we started XC schooling him, but he didn't really take to it. He's a very careful jumper, and would stop, confused in front of these solid obstacles, which didn't resemble the poles he was used to. Rather than pushing it, we focused on the show jumping. So now it's time to revisit XC. He has been in the water, but is very suspicious. Hopefully his confidence show jumping will now transfer over into the XC.

Do you have an equestrian hero or role model?

Deborah. She's very experienced. I agree with everything she teaches me and says. She sees the reaction of a horse before it happens. I respect her instruction, and I like that she plans and thinks ahead. I remember at the beginning of the 2014 season, when we were still training Bertie over 50-60cm. Deborah said, 'At the end of this season you'll be jumping around 1m.' She was right. We did. I couldn't see it, but she could.



A-Team competition group. 2013. From left: Annabel Dyson, Christina Dyson, Alex Leeds,

Deborah Coulson, Emma Leeds, Katie Chan.

What do you like about Lo Wu?

I think Deborah is a great trainer. Lo Wu is the friendliest stable that I have ever ridden at or visited. It's incredibly supportive. People came to watch me in the Category C on a day when they were not competing themselves. At competitions, everyone helps each other, and supports each other. We are not there as individuals, we are there as a team. People offer to put boots on, hold horses, help tack up, plait, whatever needs to be done.

Lo Wu is very hands on. You have to do it yourself, and you gain experience from doing it. Initially, Bertie was difficult to load, and I learned skills during the twenty minutes it took us to encourage him onto the lorry. Each time, loading became easier, and he developed trust in me. I could only have absorbed the knowledge and gained the experience by being there.

Once, when we returned from a competition, Bertie developed mild colic symptoms. I was aware of it, and able to handle it. Had I not travelled home with the horse and cared for him afterwards, I wouldn't have been there to notice the symptoms.

What advice would you give to younger riders aspiring for equestrian enjoyment and success?

Training. Don't take shortcuts in training. Take it slow and develop an excellent foundation, otherwise it will take twice as long to repair it or fill in the gaps later.

Perceived failure is not failure, it's a learning curve. For example, Bertie's fear of water is not because he's trying to be naughty; he's trying to tell me that he has genuine concerns. If you forget a dressage test or a jumping course, it's an opportunity to learn from it - you'll never forget it again!

Most of all, enjoy riding - it's fun!