

PRESIDENTS REPORT – NORTH METRO ZONE 2007/8

The year 2007/8 has been a very busy year for the North Metro Zone mainly due to the State Horse Trials in May. The Equine flu epidemic also created havoc both for the Zone and Clubs as we were shut down for six months. One of the major issues created by the flu was that the running of Zone Qualifiers which is normally spread over six months was forced into a three month period at the beginning of the year. While clubs organized early events to help prepare riders for the Qualifiers some competitors found preparation difficult and results were affected.

The major focus of the Zone Committee was the State horse Trials at Yeringberg. We had to build completely new Courses for the event. We were fortunate that David de Pury allowed us on the venue early as we would have had difficulty finishing the job if the original January timeframe had occurred. Work commenced in October and continued almost full time until a week before the event. As the team, jokingly referred to as Geriatrics Corner by one of our venerable senior instructors began building the Grade 1 and 2 Courses, it became apparent we could make the Grade 3 and 4 Courses using off cuts to save costs and allow the Teams Horse Trials take place in Yeringberg in June. In all 89 jumps were built for \$26,000 which was \$6000 above the estimate for the Grade 1 and 2 Courses. Costs would have been significantly higher if we did not have Steven Coffey's tractor and Bobcat free, assistance from John Burgess and Neil Clinton in heavy duty tractor support and the tools from volunteers.

Ewen Cameron produced a wonderful Course and worked with the volunteer force at a much reduced rate and we are delighted he has been formally accredited by the FEI as an International Course builder currently building Hong Kong's Olympic Course. The permanent workforce of myself, Brian Potton, Brian Copeland, Stephen Coffey and Jim Hurley and towards the end Bob Wardell were delighted with the response of Club members who turned up for working bees when asked and worked very hard. Thanks also to the clubs who sponsored and built jumps for the event. Saddleup, despite a massive downturn in business through EI came to the party as our major sponsor continuing their sponsorship tradition for Yeringberg. Finally thanks to the Executive Committee and our Zone Representative Linda who worked very hard over 12 months to manage the event, particularly our Event Secretary Lynne Brown.

Thanks to our hardworking DCI/ZA panel and Zone Examining Secretary for their work in sorting out the backlog in C and other tests created by EI which allowed members compete in the State events where we had more success than we had for the previous decade. All members of State Teams conducted themselves very well and were a credit to the Zone and their clubs. Thanks to Brenda Mitten and her team for running the very successful junior clinics again this year.

The Zone has been successful in getting our EFA Event back on our traditional first weekend of March which should allow us recoup some of the money we spent at Yeringberg over the next few years. We will run four EFA and three Pony Club classes at the event and initial planning suggests that about 15 extra jumps only will be needed to meet the higher EFA heights. We plan to start work in October and as usual all who would like to learn the art of cross country course building are most welcome to attend any building sessions.

I will finish by thanking everyone for their help and patience during our EI affected year and we look forward to an easier year next year.

Jim Page
Zone President

