

## North Metro Zone's Teams Horse Trials:

The North Metropolitan Zone teams horse trials started in 1964 as the Seville Teams Horse Trials held at the Weber property "Killara" in Sunnyside Rd, Seville. It moved to 'Yeringberg' in the late 1970's following the 1978 State Horse Trials Championships. The original teams' competition was open to other clubs and zones, but after about ten years it grew to a point where it was divided into two sections, and restricted to North Metro Zone clubs. The Weber family donated a perpetual trophy, as did the Lawlor family from Lilydale Pony Club, and since 1973, the Lawlor and Weber shields have been awarded to the winning teams from each section. Single and multiple teams from each club are alternately allocated to either the Lawlor or the Weber Shield according to a ballot conducted at a preceding zone meeting to determine the club riding order. Each team will comprise any combination of 1 x Grade 2, 1 x Grade 3 and 2 x Grade 4 riders and may consist of 3 or 4 members.

The format for the dressage at the teams' horse trials requires riders to enter the arenas as a team of four (or 3) and proceed to their respective rings. Riders do not present to the judge individually but circle at 'A' until the judge indicates they should enter the ring by showing a red flag. At the completion of the test, riders will wait outside their respective ring until all members have finished their tests; they then exit the arenas as a team. Because teams can comprise either 3 or 4 members, this means that a judge may not have a rider in their ring if the team has only 3 members.

The two clubs running the dressage at this event will each be responsible for teams in either the Lawlor Shield or the Weber Shield. Riders should present to their respective shield's gear checker **as a team**.

The marshall for each shield is responsible for ensuring teams are called up from the warm up areas and directed to the "gate" into the arenas. The chief marshall will then ensure the riders enter the central pathway between the arenas as a team and 'drop off' team members at the appropriate ring. Usually this means the Grade 4 riders are 'dropped off' first, then the Grade 3 rider, and if there is a Grade 2 rider, he/she continues alone to the last ring. All riders circle outside their respective rings at "A" until the judge indicates they should enter to start their test.

When each rider finishes his/her test, they should exit at A and wait until collected by the rest of their team – for example; in a team of 4, the Grade 2 rider picks up the Grade 3 rider and then they collect the two Grade 4 riders. All riders then exit the arenas as a team.

For the remainder of the event, riders present individually to cross country and their respective show jumping rings – either Lawlor or Weber Shield.

The best three scores (penalty points) from a possible four determine the winners: i.e. the team in each shield with the lowest number of penalty points. To ensure that all riders have an equal opportunity to contribute to their team's score, the Grade 2 and Grade 3 dressage tests are scaled (standardised) to be worth the same as the Grade 4 dressage test.

This takes place only at this Zone event and is not used at other Horse Trial events.

