



L to R: Ben Lott, Stacey Anderson, Nicole White, Olivia Robertson, Kimberley Bird & Morgan Baddeley.

MEET THE MAINLAND MOB!

SOUTH ISLANDERS TAKE ON THE NORTHERNERS...

WORDS: TANYA ROBINSON PHOTO: WWW.TAKETHEMOMENT.CO.NZ

Take six keen South Island pony clubbers, stir in six donated mounts, and sprinkle slowly over the North Island Pony Club Show Jumping Championships, the brainchild of Cambridge Pony Club and some keen supporters, which is held each year in January at Cambridge. This year 32 teams of six riders took part in the two day jumping fest.

By their own admission, the selected team of riders didn't give themselves much hope at all of being competitive. They were on borrowed horses, against the North Island riders on their own mounts, but were feeling extremely privileged to have the opportunity to be a part of this team, and very grateful to the organising committee at Cambridge for coming up with the concept as part of their 25th Jubilee celebrations.

Within a short timeframe these riders had put in written applications to be considered for the team; and managers, parents and others had frantically organised support in the form of sponsorship, sorted uniforms and addressed all the other logistics involved in getting six teenagers north in time to compete.

Once safely in the North Island, the team had a grand total of two days to cement some sort of rapport with their donated mounts. Special thanks is extended to those owners—mainly from the Cambridge area (one from Franklin) - who offered their horses and ponies on loan – this is a big ask for which the riders are hugely appreciative.

The team also received expert assistance with this mission from Grant Cashmore, who acted as the chief coach, and I am told has gathered a few new fans through this exercise!

The support crew of parents were on hand with never ending supplies of sunscreen and food – a priority for all teenagers!!

The team selected to represent the South Island were:

BEN LOTT – as the only male on the team, 19 year old Ben had appointed himself as the boss. From Fairlie in the Mackenzie Country, Ben has had the benefit of two years training and competing in Canada under Robin Hahn. Currently in Australia riding, he competes at home on Eragorn and McAllister, and has coached and evented up to intermediate level. Ben's mount for the week was **POINT BLANK**, a 16.2hh 11yo Gisborne bred, owned by Andrea Miller, and more commonly seen in action on the hunt field.

STACEY ANDERSON – vet nursing student Stacey is an all round sportswoman, also representing Canterbury in the Women's NPC Rugby. She was unsure which was the more dangerous – riding or rugby! Stacey's riding

CV is extensive, and she is also to represent NZPC at the Inter Pacific Rally to be held in Hong Kong in July 2010. Stacey's usual mounts are **MAGIC MOMENTS** and the new **CRUISER**. She had a late change of horse for the Cambridge event, riding **MIDWAY TOO MUCH**, owned by Julie and Carly Andrews of Franklin.

OLIVIA ROBERTSON – from Queenstown, 14 year old Olivia has been riding since she was seven – she tells me she wasn't allowed a pony until she could put the bridle on by herself! She has twice been a member of the winning Springston Trophy team, and rides the all rounder ponies **SWEET EDITION** and **MR BLACK MAGIC** at home. Her selected mount for this event was the only one she trialled, Harriet Henderson's 7yo Clyde X, **HEZA ROCKSTAR**.

NICOLE WHITE – 15 year old Nicole hails from Invercargill, where she is a student at James Hargest College, and a member of the Lorneville Makarewa Pony Club. Nicole holds her C+ certificate, and has competed in the Springston Trophy five times already. She rides the ponies Benson Dunit and Cuban Connoisseur both Show Jumping and Eventing, but moved up to a horse for this competition – Jasmine Bayliss's **DI MAGGIO**, a 15.3hh ½ Thoroughbred.

MORGAN BADDELEY – from West Melton Weedons Pony Club in Christchurch, Morgan at 13 years old has already represented Canterbury Area twice at Horse of the Year on her pony **KAIMAI RUA**. Morgan trialled three ponies in Cambridge before settling on **SPRING BROOK**, a station bred 14yo standardbred cross pony mare belonging to Caroline Kennedy.

KIMBERLEY BIRD – 13 year old Kimberley comes from Ashburton, where she competes in Show Hunter with her pony Saint David, and showjumping with Showtym Image. Kimberley has competed in all disciplines from dressage to zone games, mounted games and show jumping as well as the Springston Trophy. In addition she has played soccer in Japan for the under 12 representative soccer team. Her mount in Cambridge was the second pony trialled, the 6yo English Riding Pony/Arab cross **WESTFALIA MILANIAN**, owned by Melissa Blair.

As an added attraction a team of North Island riders was selected to take part in the inaugural inter island challenge against the South Islanders. The North Island team was made up of Ruby Hilhorst and Emily Fraser (junior); Sarah Young and Anna Hinton (intermediate); and Briar Corbett and Nicola Kelsey (senior).

The mainlanders came out firing, with Stacey winning the Accumulator on **MIDWAY TOO MUCH**, and Ben Olivia and Nicole also earning points on the first day. Nicole and Olivia won their Jigsaw event, and Stacey was again successful in the six bar competition. Ben and Stacey were 5th in their Jigsaw, and Olivia and Nicole placed in other events

The team was ahead of the Northerners at the end of the first day, but the tenacious North Island team came back to just pip them and win the Interisland Challenge on the second day.

The overall winning team was Bay of Plenty on a massive 80 points. Matamata did well to place second on 65 points, and the South Island were a whisker away in third position on 64 points – a very creditable effort on borrowed horses! 4th were Central Hawkes Bay on 48 points, and 5th Franklin on 45 points.

The team were quick to thank all concerned for a wonderful experience, and have asked that a big thank you be extended to their supporters, sponsors and others who assisted in making the opportunity happen for them; huge thanks to the horse owners; and special thanks to Kim & Vicki Hughes for providing them with accommodation in Cambridge.

With this concept proving to be such a success, one can only look forward to the North - South challenge being staged again at next year's North Island Pony Club Show Jumping Championships.

BE IN TO WIN!

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