

The

February 2018

SLIDER

Official publication
of Reining Australia

AGM and Awards Night

2017 Mare of the Year

Stories from the
2017 NRHA Futurity

*Cameron Halliwell and Gottagetagunner
2017 High Point Open and High Point Non Pro
Photo: Tania Hobbs*

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Left to right: Shane Watts, Lynda Gray (Secretary), Greg Shallard, Paul Sharp (President), Dennis Neylon, Kathleen Murphy, Glenn Winsor, Ed Smith (Vice-president), Wendy O'Sullivan (Treasurer) and Paul Barratt.

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Photo of Topsail Wimpy (mp) and Rob Lawson Marg Oakden Equi-Graphics



TABLE OF CONTENTS

RA BOARD OF DIRECTORS	3
2017/2018 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND AWARDS NIGHT	6
MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT: PAUL SHARP	
2017 MARE OF THE YEAR	12
YOUTH AMBASSADOR	18
FROM THE JUDGE'S CHAIR	27
2017 NRHA FUTURITY AND NORTH AMERICAN AFFILIATE CHAMPIONSHIPS	35
SHAUNA LARCOMBE DOMINATES THE FIRST DAY OF ADEQUAN NORTH AMERICAN AFFILIATE CHAMPIONSHIPS	
CRAIG SCHMERSAL WINS THE LEVEL 4 NRHA FUTURITY ON FACE THE ATTITUDE	
A RAFFLE WINNER AT THE NRHA FUTURITY - OKLAHOMA	
THE OLDEST AND THE YOUNGEST LEVEL 4 NON PRO FUTURITY FINALISTS SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCES	
WEG 2018 NEWS	45
CRI3* IN AUSTRALIA: QSEC 15 APRIL 2018	
RESULTS OF CRI3* IN ARDMORE OK USA 2 FEBRUARY 2018	
CRI3* IN USA: NRBC 20-22 APRIL 2018	
FAST TRACK TO 3*	
REINING AUSTRALIA AFFILIATE ASSOCIATIONS	46

*Craig Schmursal and Face The Attitude
2017 Level 4 NRHA Futurity Champions
Photo: Domenico Paolicelli*

2017/2018 REINING AUSTRALIA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND AWARDS NIGHT

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT: PAUL SHARP

Photos: RA Board

Another year done and dusted with some great opportunities and great results.

Firstly let's thank our sponsors for their commitment to our sport in the past and the future and we also need to continue to support these sponsors in every way we can.

This year we have so far signed 36 new members to our Reining Family which is very encouraging news. With record numbers of Gold Buckle nominations and the increase in horse numbers at our National show, it is very pleasing.

Our membership numbers are looking the best it has ever been for this time of year and given that we gave out \$114,435 in prize money at the Nationals in 2017 I can only say we are being rewarded for our efforts and headed in the right direction.

The thought process of your Board has been to create sustainability and maintain steady growth within our sport so as to give us longevity. Over the last two years we have grown from approximately 400 members to approximately 500 members but this doesn't equate to money in the bank.

Number of runs at a show give us a true indication of growth which we have seen and that number is continuing to grow at a nice steady rate. If each family brought one new member into Reining every year the results would be alarming.

The year 2017 has seen the Medications policy put in place and it will continue to gain momentum throughout the country with the Affiliates starting to introduce testing at their respective shows. You will find a medications policy card, that has all the info for your questions, being delivered to you as soon as we can get them printed up and sent out. Until then all the info is on the NRHA web site.



Above and right: Attendees at the Awards Night enjoyed good company and an excellent dinner at the Novotel, Brighton-Le-Sands.



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2017/2018 REINING AUSTRALIA AGM AND AWARDS NIGHT

Our NRHA Raffle will become on sale very shortly with a different approach to selling. We will send out 20 tickets to each Affiliate to sell with a small number left to sell on line. There are only 200 hundred tickets and with nearly 500 members this is a no brainer and the math is simple if two people sell one ticket each, that equates to about 10 thousand dollars direct to your National show for prize money to be won.

This year the World Equestrian Games is on again and we have 5 people who have put their hand up to represent Australia. This is a very costly exercise for all involved and we wish them every success.

Last year has seen our Merchandise sales drop a little so we are considering some new options for this year and all Board members will be listening for new ideas that you guys may have.

Most of you would already know that we have decided to move our National show to K Ranch. This decision has not been an easy one from anyone's point of view and has not been taken lightly, given that there have been many requests from the membership and difficulties in reaching agreements over a number of years. Comparisons to costings and geographical concerns and the surface preparation all have played their part. We are looking forward to working with Mick Kearney at K Ranch this year.

Mick tells me he has applied for approval to put up another roof over his current warm up pen and will also give him the option to have another block of stables. I can say that Mick has shown great enthusiasm in us having our National show at his complex. He is very keen to meet all of our requirements and to work with us to present our National show and create an atmosphere that we all can be proud of.

I have recently returned from the NRHA Board meeting in Oklahoma City held in Feb. Other than the cold it was great. I sat in on the Judges Committee meetings and observed how we get our rules and how they are made and just how things come about and voted on and it's safe to say they have all of our interests at heart.

The IAP (International Affiliates Program) has a new initiative that was started by Joao Marcos from Brazil. His idea is to promote reining across the world through having Rookie days and Non Pro days in different countries. The idea is we will approach NRHA to allocate some funding to start. Then each country will have the start they need to carry on the program. So a International trainer donates his time and the host country holds a Rookie/ Non Pro day and charges a fee to cover the next trainer and associated costs and that money is set aside to send or bring the next clinician to the host country.



Above left: Erin Neylon accepts the trophy rug for Lil Miss Genius, co-winner of the 2017 Non Pro Mare of the Year.

Above right: Robyn Ross stands in for Tyler Smith to accept the trophy rug for Chexy Oak, co-winner of the 2017 Non Pro Mare of the Year.



Left: On behalf of owner Quarter Plus and Peggy Salmon, Paul Sharp accepted the trophy rug for Dunruffnit, the 2017 Open Mare of the Year.

2017/2018 REINING AUSTRALIA AGM AND AWARDS NIGHT

The people on the IAP are Rosanne Stenberg, Paulus Beurskens, Jesse Chase, Sammi Miller, Joao Marcos and myself. This has worked extremely well in South America and Europe. Australia is next so please get behind this if you're able to. It is a situation where everyone benefits.

The recent AGM held in Sydney was an absolute pleasure to be involved with. There was a small group of extremely positive people that attended and all had their say on all the opportunities that were presented and an equally pleasing and pleasant night was had at the Dinner and Awards Night.

Congratulations to all recipients and competitors. If for some reason you couldn't make the award night and you did receive an award we will get your award to you in due course.

I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome our new Board members: Wendy O'Sullivan and Greg Shallard. Wendy comes with a great deal of experience in Reining and also on Reining Committees and will be a huge asset with her wealth of knowledge and experience. Greg also hails from Vic and has a passion for procedures and processes and will fill a gap that has been left wanting.

So please join me in making these new Board members feel welcome and also make yourself known to them and say hi, neither of them bite. On the same note I would like to thank our two outgoing Board members that are moving on and have contributed a huge amount of effort and time and personal sacrifice to your association.

Sara Agnew and Peggy Salmon will be both missed in our meetings and have left lasting legacies due to their countless hours of dedication to their respective portfolios.

Thanks to these girls we now have our accounting and sponsorship programs cloud based with templates and procedures that are simple to follow and they have paved the way for future Board members. Sadly Peggy couldn't make the AGM on the weekend and receive the standing ovation that was awarded to her and Sara for their contribution to our industry.

So please extend your thanks to Sara and Peggy and their respective families for the sacrifice that they have made with their time on the Board, often we forget to thank our spouses in these situations because our spouses are the ones who pick up the slack for our time away from family and chores. Sara is very busy in establishing her own business in accounting and we wish her every success. Peggy is also busy involved in the new Affiliate being formed in South Australia which gives us all a whole lot more options to pick from.

In closing I would like to thank ALL of our Board members and their families for the commitment and dedication you have shown in representing our association over the last twelve months and look forward to working with you all as we move forward. Thank you every member who has been a part of our sport past present and future. One person can make a difference and we all should try.

Paul Sharp, President



Above: Dennis Neylon and Wimpys Lil Miss won the high point trophy for Novice Horse Non Pro Level 1.



Above: Jessica Watson accepts the plaque for Einstein Flashy Jac and Noel Watson, reserve high point for the Open.

2017/2018 REINING AUSTRALIA AGM AND AWARDS NIGHT



Above: Glenn Winsor stood in for Kevin Harrison from WA for reserve high point in the Rookie Professional.



Above: Yves Cousinard and Spin Me Please won the high point award for Novice Horse Open Level 2.



Above: Christine Bayer and Yves Cousinard accept the plaque for Spin Me Please, reserve high point horse in Novice Horse Open Level 1.



Above: Robyn Ross takes home the trophy for Atomic Blonde, winner of the high point for Novice Horse Open Level 1.



Above: Robyn Ross accepts the plaque for Hustlin For Chicks, reserve high point horse in Limited Non Pro.



Above: Robyn Ross accepts the plaque for Atomic Blonde, reserve high point horse in Novice Horse Non Pro Level 2.



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2017 MARE OF THE YEAR

Lil Miss Genius

Co-winner 2017 Non Pro Mare of the Year

Lil Miss Genius (aka Genie) is by Einstein (Great Resolve USA) x Lilmissnoitall.

Bred by Neylon Performance Horses and shown by Erin Neylon, Genie has twice achieved the most prestigious mare award from Reining Australia - co-winner of the Non Pro Mare of the Year for consecutive years in 2016 and 2017.

They say it's in the blood; it's definitely proven here with this mare. Great dams produce great mares. Genie's grand dam, Yulgilbar Ineka Chex, is a Hall of Fame inductee and producer of multiple National and State Champions.

Genie's dam, Lilmissnotiall, was Non Pro Mare of the Year in 2015 and is a National and State Champion herself. Lilmissnoitall is also a producer of National and State Champions. She is the dam of Lil Nu It All, the highest scoring Reining Horse of Australia and has produced another great young mare, Wimpys Lil Miss, 2017 high point winner for Novice Horse Non Pro Level 1.

Genie is a happy-go-lucky mare. Her pleasant disposition is a joy to be around. Erin will enjoy one more Derby year with Lil Miss Genius in 2018. Neylon Performance Horses are very excited to see what Genie will produce when she is retired to join their broodmare band.



Left and above: Erin Neylon and Lil Miss Genius



Rick MEREDITH

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Lil' N' It All

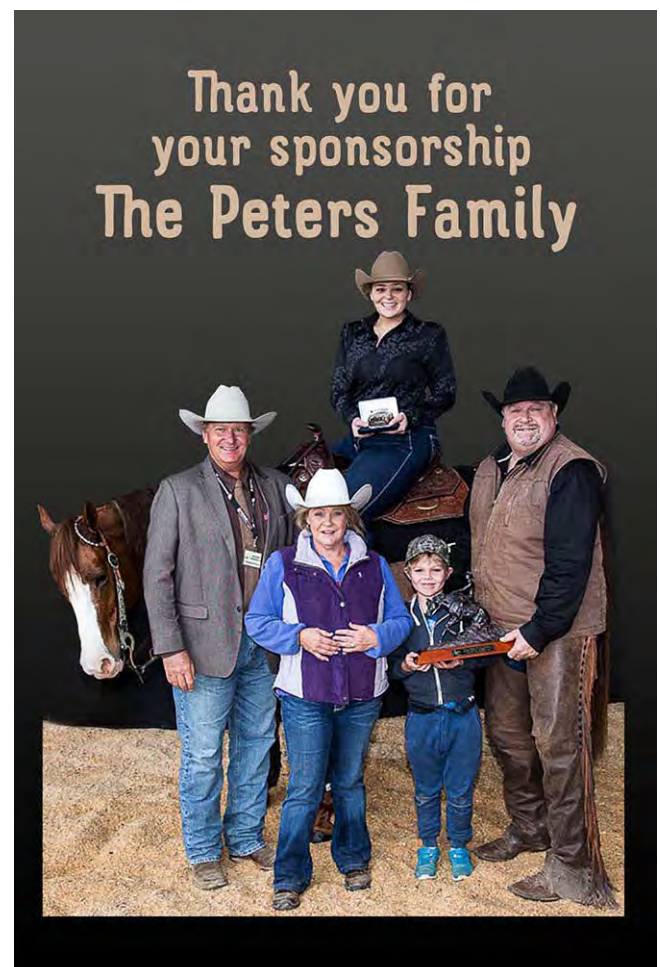
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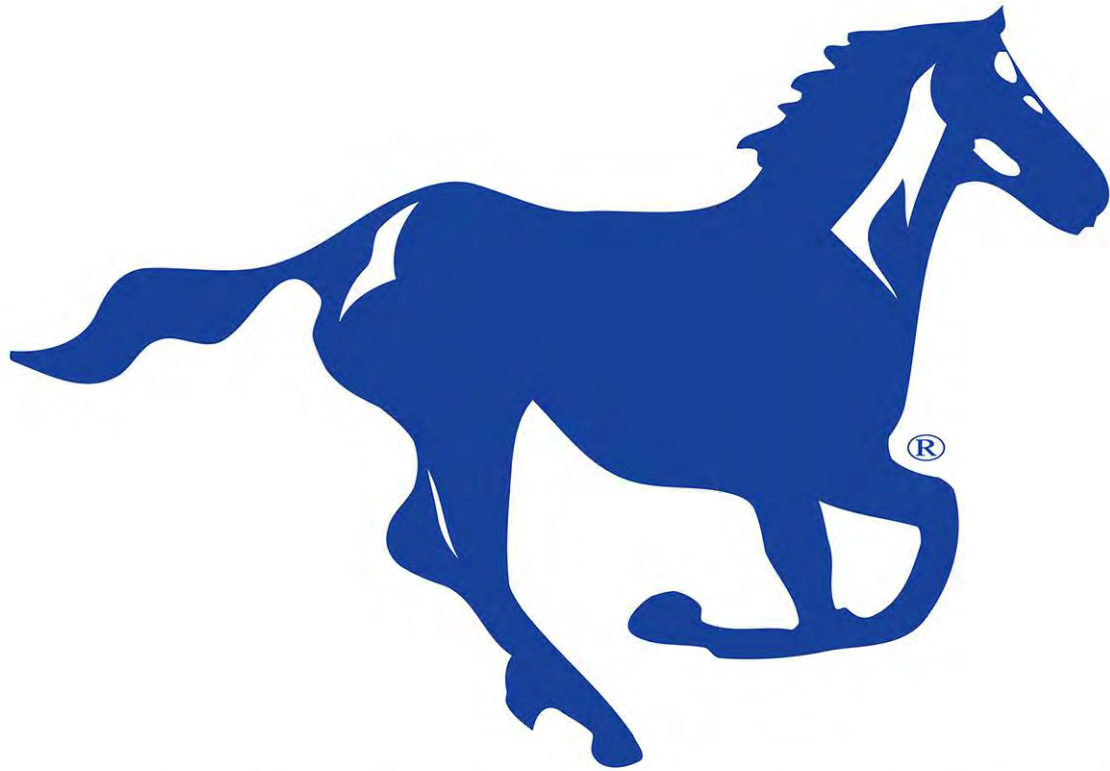
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2017 MARE OF THE YEAR

Chexy Oak

Co-winner 2017 Non Pro Mare of the Year

Chexy Oak (Strawberry) was bred and is owned by the Smith family. She was foaled in 1997. She is by the legendary Doc's Freckles Oak (the Number 2 all-time leading sire all events NCHA Aust with progeny earnings of \$1,214,297.00) and out of the mare Tweed Phillipa Chex (NRHA Non Pro Derby Reserve Champion, NRHA Non Pro Derby Champion, NRHA Open Non Pro) who was by the renowned broodmare sire Kings Phillip (imp), an own son of Peppy San Badger, and out of the great cowhorse mare, Clover Roanoke, an own daughter of Easter Chex.

Strawberry was always a special mare. She was shown and trained by Greg as a Futurity horse and through to her first Derby year with great success. Following this, Strawberry earned her money the "old way". She was shown by Greg in Open, Non Pro and aged events. Sam showed her in the Ladies, Rookies and Limited Non Pro.

It would not be uncommon to see her shown 6 times a show, at all levels. At one State Show, she won the Non Pro Derby, the Ladies, the Rookies and the Non Pro. This speaks volumes for her ability to adapt to riders' levels and her dead set honesty and reliability.

Following her last Derby year Strawberry was happily retired to the broodmare paddock.

Flash forward another 6 years and Tyler decided she might like to ride reiners. I don't know who was more shocked, Strawberry or Tyler, when she came back into work. It was literally like she had not had a day off. Four weeks later the pair went to their first show in Tamworth and came home with all blue ribbons. From here on Tyler got more serious.

Over the next show season Tyler and Strawberry really worked hard together. In only two years, this pair went from Green Rider level to be in the top 10 standings in the Open (6th) and Non Pro (4th)!

The fact that at 20 years old this mare was able to win this title is testament to her breeding, the care and attention she has received and a sound training program. Strawberry is now happily re-retired and looking forward to becoming a mother again.

To the Smith family, Chexy Oak is not only the Non Pro Mare of the Year, she is the Mare of Our Lifetime.



Above: Chexy Oak and Tyler Smith in 2004.

Left: Chexy Oak and Tyler Smith in 2017.

2017 MARE OF THE YEAR

Dunrufnit

2017 Open Mare of the Year

The Quarter Plus owned mare, Dunrufnit, and her trainer/rider Wayne Hinder started 2017 with a few goals, one of which was Open Mare of the Year.

In addition to achieving that goal along the way they also:

- Won the VRHA State Championships Open,
- Won the NSW RHA State Championships Derby,
- Was highest scoring horse at VRHA State Show,
- Was highest scoring mare at NSW RHA State Show,
- Was named Reining Australia Open Mare of the Year, and
- Pushed her earnings into the Reining Australia all-time Top Ten earning mares with almost \$19,000 to her name. (Now sitting in 8th place).

Wayne and Dunrufnit very quickly worked well as a team and very quickly produced quite specular runs. This mare has such a great work ethic and truly loves her job as a show horse. Her talents have also produced some outstanding results in her breeding program, with a colt to Einsteins Revolution, two fillies to Gunners Special Nite, a foal on the way to Freckled Leo Lena and a planned breeding to ARC Gunnabeabigstar in 2018.

Dunrufnit's 2018 show schedule will include the SARHA State Show, GVRHA Ride & Slide, NSW RHA State Show, Reining Australia National Championships and the Equitana Open.

Quarter Plus would like to thank Michelle and Wayne Hinder, Hygain, 4Cite Epiitalis Forte, Back on Track and Tuff Rock for ensuring Dunrufnit stays her best.



Above: Dunrufnit and Wayne Hinder go large fast.



2017 MARE OF THE YEAR



Above: Dunrufnit and Wayne Hinder.



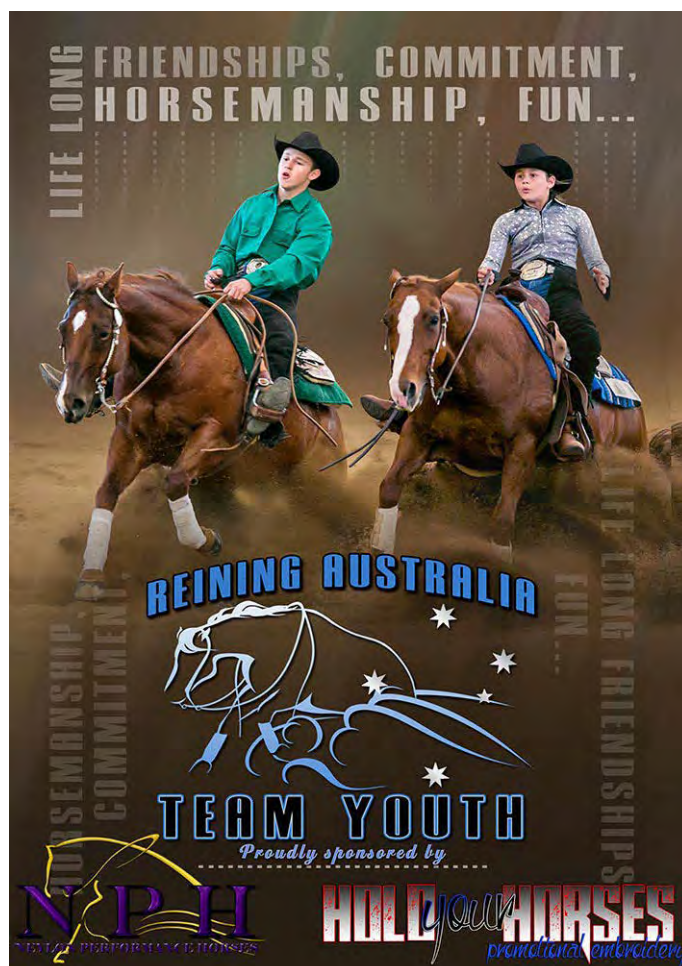
Right: Dunrufnit and Peggy; Peggy and John Wylie.



RAY GABBERT



**Merin
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YOUTH AMBASSADOR

Sharon Smith

On the weekend, Mikki was assisting in the GVRHA office, handing out competitor numbers and assisting with enquiries while we were busy, and a little girl whom I've never seen before came up to collect her number. Mikki instantly recognised this 9-year-old child and was very animated and excited and exclaimed "I saw your name on the short stirrup list. I'm so excited for you!" She then took this little girl and her dad and showed them around the complex and what to do.

When Mikki came back I had to ask her about this little girl whose name is Adelaide Osler.

Apparently, at a show last year at VRHA, there was also a large English show on, Horse of the Year, in which this little Addie, then 8, was competing. She saw Mikki with Charlie on several occasions, and after Mikki had completed an event, she came up to Mikki with her mother.

Her mother told Mikki that Addie had been admiring her horse. Mikki started talking to them about what she does - Reining - and what it was.

She let Addie hop on Charlie and then got Charlie to do a spin from the ground. Addie was in love. Addie then told her mum she was not doing her showing any more - she wanted to do Reining. She also refused to compete in her last two events for the weekend.

Mikki communicated with Addie and her mum over the next few months, and also had Addie come to the VIC Youth Camp. (Mikki had several adopted families to look out for her over the weekend). Mikki also suggested Mick Taylor as a coach to give her lessons (which she is currently doing).

I was amazed, although not shocked, as this is not the first child she has helped and gotten started in reining. This was just one that I did not know about.



Candice Wood

Silverwood
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Above: Youth Ambassador Mikayla Smith and Adelaide Osler after Addie's very first reining run at GVRHA.

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FROM THE JUDGE'S CHAIR

NRHA Worldwide Judge: Kate Elliott (AUS)

For many, judging is seen as a highly complex profession. Each pattern is assessed by a set of manoeuvres in conjunction with any incurred penalties. In addition, each Judge presents with a unique background and knowledge base from which to form their assessment.

In reality, there is just correct and incorrect, and the true challenge is in preparing and performing. Here we are talking, two years training compared to four minutes judging!

As a judge I am renowned for having a sharp eye for penalties, and detailed analysis of the biomechanics of the horse, however, it is imperative to simplify the judging process. So let's break down the judging process into correct and incorrect. Each manoeuvre is defined by a score.

Penalties require no discussion, are detailed in the NRHA Rulebook and are awarded immediately. If the judge has any doubt, then the penalty will be dismissed or potentially reviewed. If the manoeuvre is executed correctly, a manoeuvre score is given based on the combination of elements and degree of difficulty of the manoeuvre. The more dynamic the manoeuvre, the higher the respective credit earned.

What does incorrect look like to a judge? I'm sure the first thing that springs to mind for you is a memory of "that one time..." and we have all had them. One assurance for the competitor is that often they are not proportionate in our mind to the occurrence within the pattern, and each manoeuvre is judging independently. Most incorrect "moments" can be simply categorized as follows:

- Pattern Placement (off centre, late changes, delayed small, early stops, symmetry)
- Resistance (baulking, head tossing, counter flexion, failure to guide, open mouth)
- Excessiveness (excessive speed, excessive slowness, hand movement, lack of cadence)

'Correct' is clearly defined within the NRHA Rulebook with descriptions, and I strongly encourage every competitor to refer to this resource diligently. If it is your intention is to continually develop, this is an excellent guide in helping you achieve and equally as important, maintain correctness, as you develop degree of difficulty in your performance.

Who remembers their first plus manoeuvre? If you haven't got there quite yet, persist, it'll come! For those who have achieved credit earning manoeuvres, it is sure to have demonstrated the following characteristics:

- Precise Pattern Execution
- Willingness of the Horse
- Finesse (subtle refined mastery of movement=refer to above comment on detailed analysis of the biochanics)
- Speed Control
- Expression

Is Judging Complicated, No! Manoeuvres and Penalties - these two scoring elements, simply combined form what is believed to be one of the best judging systems in the Equine Industry today. A fair, valid, and quantitative scoring system that reflects the dynamics between reining horse and rider.

Along with hundreds of other Judges worldwide, I am honoured to have the opportunity to assess manoeuvres, and apply the NRHA Scoring system. As a coach, trainer, and competitor, every combination that enters the show pen has a positive intent, and it is my role to acknowledge and reward degree of difficulty whilst maintaining correctness.

Kate Elliott

BA Psychology, Diploma of Education, Cert IV Training and Assessment

NCAS Level 1 Coach, HSA Snr Instructor, HSA Clinic Assessor

AQHA Accredited Judge, NRHA Worldwide Judge

AQHA, AmQHA, Reining Australia and NRHA Accredited Professional



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Rural weekly



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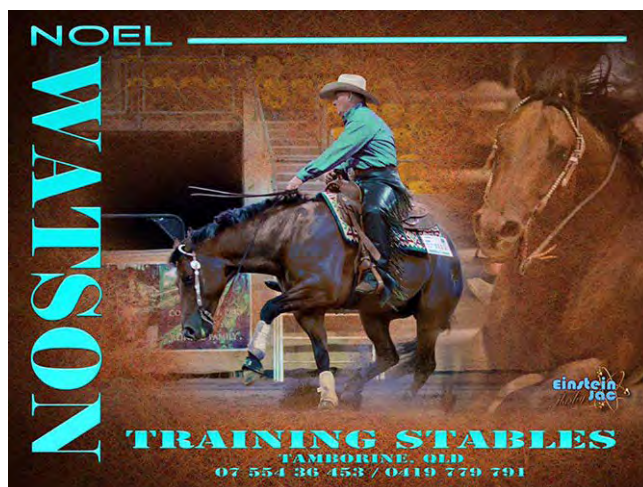
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2017 NRHA FUTURITY AND NORTH AMERICAN AFFILIATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Each year, the National Reining Horse Association (NRHA) brings the world's largest reining event to Oklahoma City. Featuring the most elite horse and rider pairs in the sport, the NRHA Futurity and Adequan® North American Affiliate Championship (NAAC) Show brings a level of excitement and anticipation to reining that is rivaled by no other show.

With over 550 Futurity horses totaling over 2,699 entries, 883 Ancillary entries, and more than 600 Adequan NAAC entries it was an electrifying event for everyone in attendance. Throughout the 10 days of competition at this year's Futurity, nearly 20 countries were represented in the show. This international event brings exhibitors and spectators to Oklahoma City to capture the essence and excitement only the NRHA Futurity brings.

Reining Australia would like to acknowledge Ken and Nancy Eppers and thank them for extending their hospitality to all Australian visitors throughout the show.

SHAUNA LARCOMBE DOMINATES THE FIRST DAY OF ADEQUAN NORTH AMERICAN AFFILIATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Sara Honegger: The Reiner, Futurity edition, January 2018

Photo: Waltenberry

Horse and rider combinations from across the country lled the Oklahoma State Fairpark on Thanksgiving Day to kick off the NRHA 2017 Futurity. Some of these competitors, with hopes of earning the Adequan® North American Affiliate Championships. Arriving here to compete was no easy feat, as competitors must have placed within the top 10 at an Affiliate Regional Championship (ARC) to earn their spot in OKC.

Shauna Larcombe and Designed With Shine earned the Adequan NAAC Open and Intermediate Open Championships with a score of 222.5. The 6-year-old mare by Lyle Lovett's stallion Smart and Shiney was bred by NRHA Million Dollar Owner Rancho Oso Rio LLC, and is owned by NRHA Million Dollar Owner and Hall of Fame Inductee Rosanne Sternberg.

"This mare is just awesome, she is getting better and better," said NRHA Professional Larcombe. "It was almost perfect; until the last horse we were first, second and third. Now she is getting a deserved holiday." The wins were even more special, as each of the horses she competed on are owned by Sternberg.

"Rosanne [Sternberg] has been fantastic," Larcombe said. "I have been in the United States just over a year and she asked me to come to her place and ride some horses; it has been awesome. The opportunities, shows and horses she has given me are just fantastic. Today has been the icing on the cake and I can't wait for next year." The duo qualified at the South Central ARC representing the Southwest Reining Horse Association.



Above: Shauna Larcombe and Designed With Shine and the prizes for winning the Adequan NAAC Open and Intermediate Open Championships.

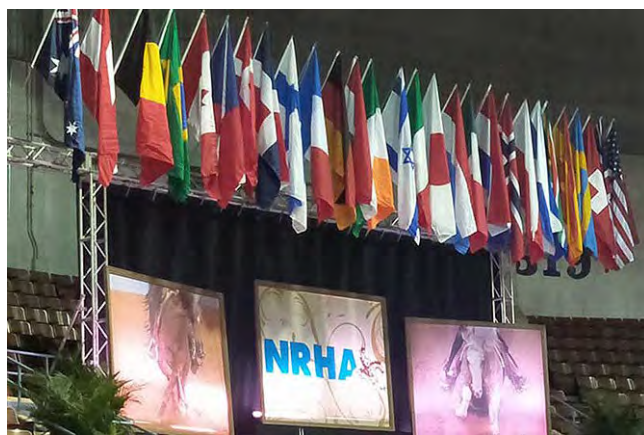
2017 NRHA FUTURITY AND NAAC SHOW



Above: Raffle winner Deb Versluis visits the Sterling Ranch barn to admire the trophies with Shauna Larcombe and Deb's sister, Louisa Lumby.



Above: Craig Schmersal loses his macho image.



Above: We're there on the far left.



Above: The barn facade of Tom McCutcheon Reining Horses.

2017 NRHA FUTURITY AND NAAC SHOW

CRAIG SCHMERSAL WINS THE LEVEL 4 NRHA FUTURITY ON FACE THE ATTITUDE

Sara Honegger: The Reiner, Futurity edition, January 2018

Photos: Waltenberry, Domenico Paolicelli

As the last rider in the draw, Craig Schmersal and Face The Attitude (Pale Face Dunnit x Miss Lil Addy Tude) had only one option – to give everything they had and the crowd was certainly with them. Thunder couldn't have been heard over the cheers of the audience! Face The Attitude ran her big circles like a thoroughbred, loped small like a pleasure horse, spun like a top, and slid into the Open NRHA Futurity Championship like the top-level reiner that she is.

"I'm happy for my family, my help, all the people that rooted for me, and have been rooting for me for so long" an emotional Schmersal said. "I've been a finalist probably 22 times, maybe 21. It's unbelievable to do it on a mare that we happen to own. It's a thrill. It's a dream come true, and I thought this day would never come!"

Schmersal has won every major NRHA event in the past, but until 2017, the NRHA Futurity Championship title has eluded the NRHA \$3 Million Dollar Rider.

Face The Attitude is a homegrown filly by Pale Face Dunnit (LTE \$70,000+) a stallion who Schmersal has worked hard to promote and has been standing at Schmersal Reining Horses, and out of Miss Lil Addy Tude who has accumulated more than \$120,000 in NRHA and USEF lifetime earnings. Face The Attitude is owned by Hickory Creek Ranch LLC, was bred by KC Performance Horses LLC and nominated by Ginger Schmersal.

"She's a great little mare, this was a great night. She just came through for me." Craig said after they scored a 226.5 to win the championship title and the \$150,000 purse.

"The support from my family and my friends was incredible," said Schmersal. "What was even more amazing were the messages we received from people we hardly knew.

Our whole family keeps bursting to tears...I guess I lost my macho image!"

Pale Face Dunnit is by Colonels Smoking Gun (Gunner) out of Lena Dun It.



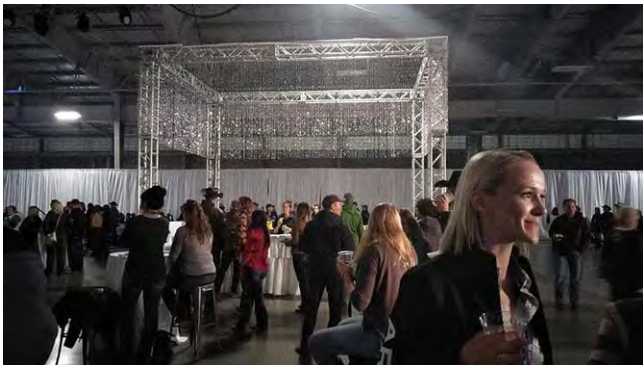
Above: Level 4 Futurity winner Craig Schmersal and Face The Attitude with family and friends.



2017 NRHA FUTURITY AND NAAC SHOW



Above: Sliders Night: the stage.



Above: Sliders Night: the bar.



Above: Deb Versluis congratulates the man himself, Craig Schmersal.



Above: Deb Versluis and Michell Anne Kimball, owner of Spooks Gotta Whiz and sponsor of our Youth.

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2017 NRHA FUTURITY AND NAAC SHOW

A RAFFLE WINNER AT THE NRHA FUTURITY - OKLAHOMA

Deb Versluis

Photos: Deb and friends

So the story goes like this. Back in July 2017 I received a bonus at work and decided what the heck and I bought one ticket in the Reining Australia NRHA Futurity raffle.

I attended the Reining Australia Futurity and Continental Affiliate Championships in September. I put in some long days judging the Green Rider on the Tuesday, bit judging on the Wednesday and Thursday, scribing on the Friday and bit judging for half a day on Saturday then scribing for the rest of the day/night.

As usual it was a great show with record entries. The final event was run and won. As the presentations were under way, I felt I deserved a cheeky glass of wine to celebrate the end of the show and to say cheers to all the winners, competitors and committee on an amazing show.

I am standing at the entry gate with half a dozen friends when they announce that the raffle is about to be drawn. Now what happens next is what you might call synchronicity, or wishful thinking. I quote "I'm just going to put down my glass of wine so when they call my name and I throw my hands in the air I won't spill any." As I placed my glass of wine on a table nearby, my name was called as the winner of the trip to Oklahoma for the NRHA Futurity. AMAZING.

The lucky person to join me on the trip was my sister Louisa from The Whitsundays in Queensland. She was pretty gobsmacked when I asked her.

Arriving at Oklahoma City fairgrounds the first thing you notice is the size of the amazing venue. The stables, main arena, warm up pen (only one of many) and shops are all in the one complex.

The studs and trainers have decked out the front of their stables like it was a home away from home. Over-life-size pictures of horse and rider adorn the area. The two competition arenas, the Adequan and Coliseum, are running concurrently all day.

There is plenty of reining to watch and plenty of shopping to do, shopping both at the Fairgrounds and within Oklahoma City. So reining we watched and shopping we did (on a daily basis). The Australian dollar wasn't that great but there were still good buys to be found. I don't think any Aussie went home that wasn't over weight with their luggage.

There was a great contingent of Australians at the Futurity and on occasion "Aussie Aussie Aussie Oi Oi Oi" could be heard. It was fantastic to catch up with fellow Australian reiners and expats. We also got to meet some great people and forge new friendships.

After the Futurity semi-final go round was run, a SLIDERS party was held at the Fairgrounds where everyone was welcome. The venue was decked out with sliver steamers and lights with a full stage and screens. A buffet dinner was available for all guests. All the Professional and Non Pro Futurity finalist were individually introduced on the stage. There were special awards announced and the Hall of Fame presentation as well. It was a very professional evening.

Some things about Oklahoma were a little different than here.

Signs saying no guns allowed - seat belts not required in back seat. I actually travelled in the back of a hatch of an Uber ride for one trip, 4 in the back seat – NO problem! Entrée means main meal.



2017 NRHA FUTURITY AND NAAC SHOW

A RAFFLE WINNER AT THE NRHA FUTURITY - OKLAHOMA



Above: Billie Shone, Louisa Lumby, Deb Versluis and Jody Shone surround Craig Schmersal.



We visited some great attractions like the Cowboy Historical Museum and ate at some great restaurants but nothing compared to watching the finals of the Futurity. Some amazing runs were fraught with a small hiccup, a dropped lead or an over spin, which put them out of the running. (So the big guns have hiccups too.)

The one run that pulled it all together was the very last run of the night. What a cracker score of 266.5 to win the Level 4 Open Championships: Craig Schmersal riding Face The Attitude (Pale Face Dunit x Miss Lil Addy Tude), a mare owned by Hickory Creek Ranch LLC, bred by KC Performance Horses LLC, and nominated by Ginger Schmersal. This was Craig's first Futurity win, can you believe it.

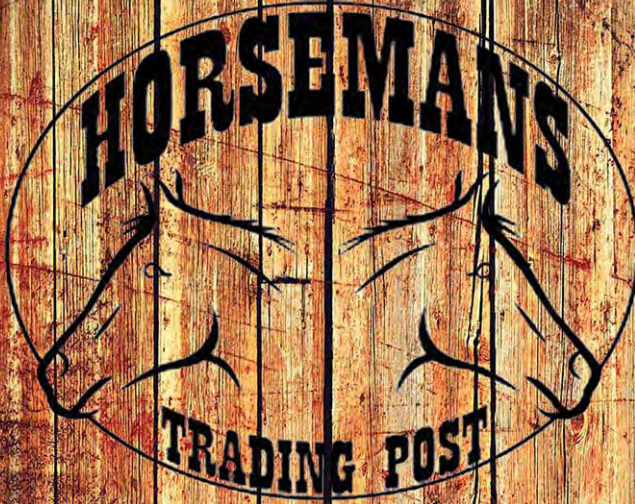
Many thanks to Reining Australia for putting on this raffle. I would never have had this opportunity otherwise. The long flights were worth every minute.

Thank you to Michell Anne Kimball – Spooks Got a Whiz — for your support and it was great to meet Michell in person.

Nancy and Kenny Eppers: your hospitality towards all of us Australians is appreciated.

What a trip of a lifetime. I can speak for my sister and me; we had an absolute ball. I certainly would love to go back again one day. So bring on the raffle for next year.

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THE OLDEST AND THE YOUNGEST LEVEL 4 NON PRO FUTURITY FINALISTS SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCES

Megan Arszman: The Reiner, Futurity edition, January 2018

Photo: Domenico Paolicelli

While some might consider the oldest Non Pro Futurity finalist is passing the torch to the youngest, others might consider it more of sharing. Because, after all, Dr. James Morgan is quickly approaching his million-dollar status and Carlee McCutcheon has a lot of time to soak up everything she can about showing reiners.

In the 2017 CINCH NRHA Non Pro Futurity Finals, Carlee McCutcheon became the youngest qualifier at the age of 12. She beat out the previous record holder by exactly five months. Cade McCutcheon, her brother, was 12 when he qualified for the Level 4 Non Pro Finals. That age beat out Mandy (McQuay) McCutcheon, who just happens to be their mother. She qualified for the Non Pro Finals at the age of 13.

“Back when I started, [NRHA] just had one level,” recalls Dr. Morgan. “Then we got more sophisticated and had two levels, and now we have four levels. Ever since we’ve had Levels 1 to 4, I’ve always made the Level 4 Finals.”

In fact, Dr. Morgan has earned his spot in 28 consecutive NRHA Non Pro Futurity Finals. The determined exhibitor won the 1984, 1985 and 1986 Non Pro Futurity aboard Boss Super Fly, Royale Banjoe and Banjoes Beauty respectively, as well as eight reserve championships.

It’s because of that passion for horses that Dr. Morgan sees a bright future for Carlee and other young reiners. “They’re a lot more intellectual and have a greater understanding of what’s going on,” he says.

“I really think the kids of the day, although I don’t necessarily agree with all the things they do, are a lot smarter and more well-informed about what is real.”

Dr. Morgan appreciates any young rider who chooses to spend time in the arena, rather than on the couch or on the soccer field.

“When I was 12 years old, the horse was my only toy,” he recalls. “Between the Lone Ranger, Hop Along Cassidy and Gene Autry, it was me and my horse and that was kind of it.

Kids of today, they have a lot of opportunities and parents that take them everywhere—they play soccer, volleyball, lacrosse, they have dance class... they have so many opportunities. When I was 12, I only had one opportunity, and it was spelled H-O-R-S-E.

“The thing I think is so important about the dynamics of today is that it’s not like it used to be, and I’m glad,” he continues. “A lot has improved—the horsemanship has improved, the ground is better...”

Dr. Morgan looks back on when the NRHA Futurity was first held at State Fair Park in Oklahoma City, saying it was a dungeon.

“When our first reining was held here, there was a large hole in the middle of the arena,” he laughs. “You could do your lead departure over against the wall if you wanted to so you could avoid the hole. “Now, we have wonderful facilities,” he says. “It’s just a better atmosphere all together.”



Above: Carlee McCutcheon and Dr James Morgan, youngest and oldest finalists in the CINCH Level 4 Non Pro Futurity..



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WEG 2018 NEWS

Kathleen Murphy
RA Board WEG/FEI Portfolio

CRI3* IN AUSTRALIA: QSEC 15 APRIL 2018

Reining Australia will be running an independent CRI3* event at QSEC on 15th April 2018. The judge will be FEI 3* judge Leanne Bartlett.

Veterinary Delegate is Dr Julian Willmore. The Treating Veterinarian is Dr Frank Low. We thank these vets for their support of the event.

FEI Reining Steward Andrea Webb will be on the grounds to advise and supervise each step from the examination on arrival, the fitness examination and through to the sampling for medications control.

Riders must have FEI 3* status to enter this event. Requests for fast track to 3* must be submitted to Equestrian Australia through Reining Australia.

Membership in Equestrian Australia is required for competitors and owners of horses in FEI events. Horses must be at least 7 years of age, be registered with Equestrian Australia and have an FEI Passport.

RESULTS OF CRI3* IN ARDMORE OK USA 2 FEBRUARY 2018

The Australian contingent had a strong showing at Ardmore. All rode a WEG qualifying score.

Five combinations, including Cade McCutcheon (USA) and Toru Tamaoki (JPN), tied for first place on 73. Shauna Larcombe came in next on Spook N Sparkle with a score of 72.5. Robyn Schiller followed on with a 72 on Smart Like Steady.

Martin Larcome scored 71.5 on Setting Off Smart and Warwick Schiller also ran a 71.5 on Plenty Of Guns. Dan James and Don Magnum followed them with their score of 71.

Congratulations to everyone. We wish you all the best.

CRI3* IN USA: NRBC 20-22 APRIL 2018

Organisers of the National Reining Breeders Classic have scheduled three independent CRI3* events at the NRBC show in the Great Southwest Equestrian Center Katy, Texas.

The scheduling allows riders to qualify for WEG selection at one venue, in one series of individual classes. Riders will be running Pattern 9 on the first day, then Pattern 5 on Saturday and Pattern 5 again on Sunday.

FAST TRACK TO 3*

Art. 305 Reining Rules: National Federations may fast track Athletes to a star level provided the Athletes have never started in a CRI before.

Each request for fast track must be accompanied by a report of records and must be approved by the FEI.



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