

EQVALAN[®] GOLD

Rider of the Month

This month's Eqvalan Rider of the Month is the Wentworth Saddles Future Star winner, Adam Mellers...

Adam grew up with horses:

"I've been riding since I was nine, and jumping since I was thirteen, and doing the shows. I was with Vicki Roycroft for about three years and then on and off with George Sanna for another seven years. Now I live in Beaudesert, Queensland, with my wife and we have our own showjumping yard. At the moment we've only got twelve horses in work and we breed every year for ourselves. We've been backwards and forwards to shows all over Australia, competed in America. I've also ridden in Japan."

"I won the Wentworth Futurity on Heidi's horse, Animate. We've actually just syndicated him with Julian Wilmore, Ron and Judy Wanless and John Stainton. He is a horse that my wife trained for the last four years but she's having a baby next week, so I've taken over the ride. I also have his older brother Alimo who was third in the World Cup. He won the futurity there three years ago, so we had both brothers win the Tempo futurity. Heidi trained Animate from a young horse and brought him up to where he is now and I've just got on him and got all the glory for her good work."

"We imported the stallions from England when they were six months old. Susan Bond used to ride their mother, Lucilla. She was a Ladykiller mare and they're by Animo who is by Almé Z. Animo competed at the Barcelona Olympics. They're

very well bred for jumping horses."

"Our aim in syndicating the stallions was to keep the horses in Australia. We certainly will compete overseas, but this means that they'll be able to stay in the country and not have them get to the stage where you get a good offer and have to sell them. All parties are very keen to keep the stallions, we all play our part. Heidi and myself are part of the syndication as well. Basically our goal is to try and keep some good horses in Australia and hopefully one day get on an Olympic or World Championship team and know that you're there to compete and not just to get your horse sold."

"Alimo is syndicated with Michael King and Robert and Belinda Bryett. They're very keen to keep him in the area and breed a few for the future and we've just had some fun with him."

"Alimo's owner has already put \$130,000 up to run a showjumping circuit this winter. It's called the Elysian International Showjumping Classic and Michael King is sponsoring it. It's at Elysian Fields Polo Estate, his polo ground in Canungra, Queensland. There will be a \$25,000 Grand Prix! The grounds are immaculate, probably the best we'll see. We hope to get some riders over from New Zealand."

"The main day for that will be the second of July, the programs are being done now and should be out in the next few weeks. So it's full steam ahead and should run for two weekends. And we'll see how it goes. If it's successful, we might run it for longer next year. Michael already has big polo days for charity and this showjumping event will donate all the profits to charity..."



Adam Mellers

EQVALAN[®] GOLD