

EQVALAN[®] GOLD

Rider of the Month

Story Christopher Hector Photos Catriona Kinsey Photography, & Roz Neave

This month's Eqvalan Rider of the Month is Shane Rose, who took out the World Cup class at Warwick on All Luck

On mature reflection was All Luck as a name, tempting fate?

"Hopefully not. I am lucky to have him." But the injury you discovered at Adelaide in the Australian Trans Tasman Team camp, was fairly serious?

"He'd been carrying some sort of very mild lameness through most of 2005, it was never significant enough to form any kind of diagnosis. He went through Sydney event fine, but afterwards we spent a lot of time and money trying to find something wrong and we couldn't find anything. There was some minor soft tissue damage that we worked on and it appeared to have solved that little problem. Then I had my last gallop at home, took him to Adelaide, and when he got off the truck he was lame. That wasn't such good luck."

"We didn't know why he was lame. I felt as though I could have got him through Adelaide, but it would not have been the best thing for his future. In hindsight that looks like a very good decision because we spent a lot more money, took him to Randwick for an examination which showed stress fractures in his mid cannon bone – it could have been very bad if I'd run at Adelaide."

"The diagnosis was very good. Three months rest, which happened straight after Adelaide – that still gave me enough time to bring him back into work for Warwick CIC. We've taken it fairly slowly, just building up his strength and condition. He's much better when he is happy – his performances since he came back prove it. He did a dressage test and

showjumping round at Scone a few weeks ago, he scored 40 in the dressage and jumped a clean round. At Warwick he went under 40, I think he was a little softer in his way of going at Scone but maybe not as big in his movement. His lateral work at Warwick was really special and he can get it better than that. He is an amazing horse, he was fantastic in the cross country, I believe he is better in all three disciplines than any horse I have had."

"The cross country at Warwick was his first start in eight months. At home I've got a tiny little schooling paddock and I just popped him into the water a couple of times just to make sure he hadn't forgotten, and he certainly hadn't. He's a horse that is very very easy to ride, very soft in the mouth, he gallops very well, he is easy to turn, he watches the fences and he is athletic. I didn't feel I had to push him at any stage. It's his first start back, if he wanted to have 15 time, then I was happy with that, and he came in with the fastest run of the day. He is just very well balanced."

Given your appalling run of bad luck over the past few years, can you start to even hope for Aachen and the Worlds?

"It's funny. Even though we had the trouble last year, I've been really careful with this horse. I know he is very good so I haven't run the legs off him. I've tried to pick courses with the better going, I haven't started him at every second event – I've had a very specific program with him. The plan for 2006 was Warwick, Werribee, and hopefully, the Worlds..."

Each EQVALAN GOLD Rider of the Month receives 6 syringes of EQVALAN GOLD in recognition of their achievement.



Shane Rose

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