



Photo: Julie Wilson

Sonja Johnson



Rider of the Month

Sonja Johnson *came to the Horseland Three Day Event with victory – and selection in the Australian team for the WEG – firmly in her aim...*

“That’s why I came to Werribee...”

And Sonja came with a top support crew, including former German dressage team coach, Harry Boldt:

“I did a little bit of work with Harry last year, but even though Harry is based in Western Australia, he is not around a hell of a lot, and the thing about working with Harry is, you go along, you are given your homework, you go home and you complete that assignment, then you go back and see Harry again, to get a pass!”

“He gave me a little help in the lead up for Adelaide last year, and I’ve wanted to work with him for a while and we just haven’t been able to put it together. Jaguar had a good break after Adelaide, but there was no point in taking him straight back to Harry until I had him working half way reasonably. So I fitted in three or four lessons with Harry back in April before he went to Germany and then to Badminton to help Olivia Bunn.”

“Harry didn’t get back to WA until I’d left to come across to Melbourne but when I was having my last lesson with him, he’d mentioned that he was going to help Olivia, and I thought ‘can I be so cheeky?’ Yes I can, so I said ‘I don’t suppose you’d like to come to Melbourne?’ He agreed to come which was a huge bonus for me.”

“He arrived in Melbourne on the

Thursday and I had a lesson with him that afternoon, then we worked the horse twice on the Friday and he warmed me up for the test. So I guess I’ve really only had six lessons with him since the beginning of the year. But he is so concise in what he says, and he is so good at the warm up, because he doesn’t say a hell of a lot, he just gives me really concise information. So while I was riding my test it was like I still had the microphone in my pocket with Harry talking to me – I was able to remember everything he’d told me, and put that into place in the test. It seemed to work.”

So are you looking forward to a little holiday in Aachen?

“I think what I am looking forward to is a competition in Aachen and a holiday afterwards. I don’t think Aachen will be any holiday.”

You’ve represented Australia at a World Cup Final but this is the big big time?

“Absolutely. It will be a fabulous opportunity. He is a great little horse. To be sitting on something like Jag, you really don’t care what is in front of you – the bigger a course is, the more technical a course is, then the bigger my grin gets when I walk it. I just know what an agile little power packet I am sitting on – it gives you a great feeling of confidence.”

Go Sonja!

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

