



WPDA NewsBits

November 2017

Table of Contents

- 02 – Member's Corner –
Charlotte DuJardin
- 05 – Banquet
- 06 - Reminders
- 07 - CBLM Champion
- 08 - Officers, Directors &
Committee Chairs
- 09 – NewsBits Advertising

Happy Fall, y'all!

Renew your WPDA Membership

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Time to renew your club membership!! Membership covers the 2018 competition year and includes:

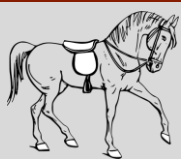
- Participate in WPDA shows and clinics
- Individual membership in the USDF
- Eligible for year-end awards
- Voting & office holding privileges
- WPDA Team competition for Juniors and Adults
- Social events
- Annual banquet
- WPDA Handbook
- Membership Directory*
- Monthly Newsletter*

*Available on request

Our website has been updated and is an ongoing project; but we can now access the newer version by using the original website address:

www.wpdadressage.org. You can also access the website using wpda.club.

Thank you for your patience while we were constructing a better, more user-friendly, website.



Member's Corner



Charlotte Dujardin Masterclass

***Contributed by Erin Vensel, WPDA
Junior/Young Rider ~***

A few weeks ago I had the most amazing opportunity to go with my friend, Emma Teff, her mom, Nina, and our trainer Krista Tycho-Noone to meet Charlotte Dujardin, and watch her teach a masterclass! The event was held at the World Equestrian Center in Wilmington, Ohio. We got to sit ringside at a table near the corner close to the arena letter K. There were 5 horse and rider pairs in total. One horse was 5 years old, the following two were both 6, and the last two were a little older and schooling movements in the Prix St. George and Grand Prix. Throughout the class, Charlotte kept things simple and there were themes that went along with each horse and rider combination, no matter what level or age. I learned so much and took man, many pages of notes. Here are but a few of the things that I took away from this clinic.

The first is consistency. Every moment you are with your horse is a training moment! Charlotte was especially picky about transitions. We must be disciplined as riders to make good transitions happen every time. If it's not a good transition, do it again until the horse offers its best. This may sound like basic stuff, but it is of utmost importance as it is a building block for upper level work. If you have good basics, then the tricks are the easy part. 😊

Horses have their whole life to collect. They need to learn to go forward first! Whether it is transitioning up or down, or moving sideways, the horse must be in front of your leg. Doing lateral work should not change the quality of the gait or its rhythm. To keep them thinking forward, practice hundreds of transitions every ride. The horse should be alert and sensitive to aids from your seat, and you should not have to be motivating them to go every stride. The horse should move willingly forward between two legs and two reins. Straightness is also key and will help collection.

Charlotte also touched on the importance of fitness and developing core strength which will help you to better influence your horse.

Charlotte gave many tips and exercises to practice different movements and develop the different qualities in the horse, as well as to help the horse and rider pair work together in harmony. She even shared with the crowd the schedule that she and Carl like to keep their horses on which is as follows: schooling on Mondays and Tuesdays, hacking on Wednesday, schooling on Thursday and Friday, hacking on Saturday, and a complete day of rest on Sundays. Near the end of the evening she talked on qualities that are essential in a good horse and a good rider. It is nice for a horse to be trainable, rideable, and brave. And a Rider needs to be disciplined, consistent, accurate, and patient. These qualities can get you anywhere!

I had an amazing time and it was such a privilege to be able to meet one of my dressage heroes! The lessons I learned will stick with me for years and years to come!

Contributed by Emma Teff, WPDA Junior/Young Rider ~ On September 29, 2017, I had the opportunity to attend Charlotte Dujardin's masterclass at the World Equestrian Center. Before the event started, Charlotte signed autographs. I got her to sign my Breyer Valegro horse and I took a picture with her, which was super cool. We purchased a VIP table, so we were right next to the arena. The agenda for the night was for Charlotte to teach five horse and rider combinations, with a dinner break in between.

The first horse to go was a five-year-old, Fiderhelm, ridden by Melissa Borrer. Charlotte spent awhile talking about when she starts her horses and how they should be progressing as they age. She worked with the rider on going forward and told her to "have a yee haw," which I really appreciated because my trainer, Krista, often mentions that, and we had just done it in my lesson that week. One of the things Charlotte mentioned was that if you do not need a whip, you should not carry one because you will rely on it. I started riding both of my horses without a whip because of this, and it has made an incredible difference because I am forced to use my legs as a "wake up aid" instead of the whip. Her other two biggest tips from the session with the first horse were that you should ride the horse in a stretching frame in both directions at the beginning and end of every ride and that every single transition should be a good one. Countless times throughout the night, Charlotte told riders, "That was a terrible transition. Do it again."

After the five-year-old, a six-year-old, Gladstone, was next to go. The horse was fantastic to watch because he looked like such a lovely ride. With this rider and horse, Charlotte had them canter 10 meter circles and work on walk transitions at the wall. This was an exercise that I took home to work on with my horse because Charlotte said the wall helps them sit more underneath. An important thing she mentioned to the crowd while working with this horse is that it doesn't matter where you and your horse are at compared to others; it is about the individual training and working to better yourself and your horse.

The third horse was another six-year-old, Gaston TF, but he was farther along in his training and had already competed at 4th level. Charlotte helped he and his rider, Angela Jackson, through various lateral exercises, such as travers, shoulder in, and half pass. Again, she drilled the canter to walk transitions, because they still were not being done right. In the middle of her coaching, the British dressage queen stressed the importance of taking in all the knowledge you can and going to the gym to get stronger and make both sides of your body equal. She told us that two of the keys to her success are having a feeling of what she wants to create in her horse and making it happen and always having the frame of mind of "why didn't I get an 8 or a 9 on that?"

Following Gaston and Angela, Diano entered the ring. He was ridden by a young rider, and they were working on Prix St. George and FEI Young Riders. Charlotte worked on many different exercises with this pair, and one of her pieces of advice was to make sure you use the short sides to collect, rebalance, and prepare for the next movement. The horse was pretty strong, so she continued to tell the rider that she cannot pull. I took away from this horse that I need to work on being able to go really forward and bring my horse back immediately. Because the rider was pulling at times, Charlotte told the audience that what happens in the giving and retaking of the reins tells you a lot. I really appreciated this Carl Hester quote because my trainer uses it quite frequently as well.

The fifth and final horse of the night was beautiful to watch. His name was Handsome, and he was a big, coming Grand Prix horse with a very powerful hind end. He and his rider, Jenifer Baumert, demonstrated zig zags, pirouettes, and passage. Charlotte's biggest tip from this session was that the hard part is being brave and taking risks in tests without making mistakes.

In conclusion, auditing Charlotte Dujardin's masterclass in Ohio was the educational opportunity of a lifetime. I brought home so much to work on, and I took eight pages of notes. Charlotte is an excellent speaker who conveys so much knowledge in a simple and easy to understand way while keeping it entertaining. She has a true desire to spread all that she knows and her passion for dressage is evident. She was very clear that our sport requires hard work and dedication, and that it is not easy to get to the top. Charlotte Dujardin is an icon, and the fact that I was able to learn from her was unforgettable.



WPDA Annual Awards Banquet!

Sunday, November 5, 2017,

5 pm – 9 pm

Held at the Camelot.

Invitations are out!!

**Looking forward to seeing you all for a
wrap-up of the year, election results and a
great time!**

Reminders!!

→There is a Board meeting November 13, 6 pm at Atrias in Irwin. Members are welcome to attend. Please let Pam McCready know you are coming so that the facility can make arrangements.

→Next Board meeting is December 4 – time & place TBD.

→If you have not completed the survey sent by Nina Teff, please do so. Your response will help our club grow in the right direction!

→By now, you have all received your voting ballots. Please get them in a.s.a.p. so that election winners can be announced at the banquet!!

→**November 18 – 19, Dressage clinics with Jan Ebeling, For information, visit www.topline-stables.com or email janeen@topline-stables.com**



Congratulations!!



Vong's Denver,

Rider: Pia Helsted,

Owner: John Stremple

The team qualified and competed at the 35th Annual CBLM Championships & VADA Fall Competition, Grand Champion Intermediare I and FEI Intermediare I AND, Reserve Champion, Prix St Georges



Officers

President – Pam McCready pgm1208@aol.com

Vice President – Barb Wozniak barbara@wozniaks.net

Treasurer – Karen Puchalsky kpuchalsky@aol.com

Secretary – Fran Mocker dakotaequineenterprises@gmail.com

Past President – Lynne Kuehner shenandoah96@comcast.net

Director – Jerri Anesetti janesetti17@gmail.com

Director – Nancy Sholtz nancy.sholtz@lhh.com

Director – Jan Baumann – jpbbaumann@comcast.net

Committees

Recognized Shows – Karen Puchalsky kpuchalsky@aol.com

Sanctioned Schooling Shows – Jerri Anesetti janesetti17@gmail.com

Volunteer Chair – June Recognized Show – Jerri Anesetti

Western Dressage - Ingrid Albrecht McNamara iadressage.diva@gmail.com

Adult Clinic - Karen Puchalsky & Janet A Attanucci janet.attanucci@ppg.com

Hospitality – Nancy Sholtz nancy.sholtz@lhh.com

Membership – Nancy Sholtz

Banquet – Nancy Sholtz nancy.sholtz@lhh.com

Junior/YR Team – Nina Teff cnteff@zoominternet.net

Website – Melissa Policicchio mel.carson245@gmail.com

Awards – Janet Hadden – salem150@hky.com

Canter Cash Chair – Kim Baierl kbaierl@zoominternet.net

Newsletter – Tina Vensel sewdressage@aol.com

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