

Janelle and Em from England

Hello Again Everyone,

On the eve of Badminton, Em has had to pull out of the event. Unfortunately, Finn (Balmoral Cavalier) has upset a splint and they have re-set their sights on Luhmulen 4 star event in Germany. This will now be their major event in her attempt to gain selection for Beijing. Understandably, Em is shattered, but taking it very well considering how much time, money and effort she has invested. Finn looks great otherwise and being a big time performer will no doubt rise to show what he can do at Luhmulen.

Red (Mr Showoff) and Janelle have enjoyed another lovely week with their preparations for Badminton going very well. They went to their first competition last weekend (the 19th) at Powderham near Exeter. They competed in the advanced combined training, as did quite a few other horse and riders who are off to Badminton next week. It rained the WHOLE day and so the conditions were far from perfect! The dressage went well with Red scoring 73% to be in 2nd place. William Fox-Pitt was in first place on 75% and Andrew Hoy was in 3rd place on 71% with Master Monarch. The show jumping was up to height at 1.30 metre and the going was very wet and deep making the horses work very hard. Red jumped really well, but unfortunately they had one rail down when Red came down hill to the planks and got a little close. Fox-Pitt withdrew and Hoy jumped clear so the final placings were Hoy first and Janelle second. Sam Griffiths (the girls are staying in Sam's yard at Hoplands) came 4th on Connigar Bay, the horse he is taking to Badminton. It was nice to have an outing before Badminton, even with the wet and very cold (only 8 degrees) weather!

It was a little bit embarrassing turning up in the hired van and parking amidst the huge trucks that they have here.

This week while Finn was stuck in the box with just 2 half hour picks of grass each day, Janelle and Rec have enjoyed some

good dressage sessions, a nice school on the lovely cross country course at Hoplands Equestrian Centre and one trip to Andover for a great gallop on an all weather rubber track at a thoroughbred establishment.

On Sunday, Janelle's show jumping coach, Russell Johnstone, who has made his way over to watch Badminton and help Janelle gave her and Red a tune up. Overall, considering the hard training they have completed, Red is feeling very well.

Apart from riding and looking after the horses, the girls have got out to some local attractions. "We have been to the Romsey Abbey which has been the local parish since 1544. It was really great to see. We have also been to an iron age hill fort and when Will (Enzinger) arrived, we had a day trip to Stone Henge which was amazing!"

Last night we were all invited to Clayton and Lucinda Fredericks place for dinner. Like Sam Clayton has been here for a long time now and is very willing to help out fellow Australians. They have an amazing set up and a lovely house. There are a number of stables and several working pupils who stay in excellent accommodation on the farm. The facilities are so good that this is where the Australian team for the Olympics will go into their pre-embarkation camp.

On the way there, we had to give way to a column of tanks that were doing military exercises in full gear. Clayton benefits from this as his 30 acres adjoins the military land which is open and unfenced, allowing him to hack horses out over miles of open fields.

Sam Griffiths and his wife Lucy continue to be excellent hosts including a BBQ and 'Pims' night for all the Aussies who have gathered here so far. There is a host of supporters from Victoria here already and we are expecting Belinda Smith, Mel Cannon, Mike and Steph Sullivan, Amanda Howell, Georgia Connolly and her mum, Carol, Hayley Easdale and her sister, John and Angela Anker.

We have been following the results from Sydney and Kentucky events with great interest as it is from these events that selectors will be starting to form the final squad for Beijing. It was interesting to note that Phillip Dutton, now a

citizen of the USA won Kentucky after coming 2nd, 5 times! How did we let him go?

Tomorrow, Janelle and Red move into the competition stables at Badminton, so the next update will be written from Badminton, very exciting!!!

Thanks again everyone,
Bye for now,
Janelle, Red, Em and Finn



The Romsey Abbey



Red and I show jumping at the combined training. In the background is Powderham Castle, an amazing back drop for the event!



This is the little van we hired for the day. We were lucky to get out after all the rain! The following

day ALL of the horse trucks were towed in and out. The event had 4 tractors on the go all day – amazing conditions!!!



A house in the local village, King's Somborne