

Drum Beat



The Judges Decision!



Have you ever wanted to ask a judge why they placed horses in a particular order when judging a class? Well our International Liaison and Board member Isobel Lippiatt was given the rare opportunity to do just that during a brief interview with show Judge Mr. Jack Dean when showing had finished at the Penrith Agricultural Show in Australia earlier this year.

Both of Isobel's F1 Drum horses "Excalibur Park Apollo" and "Featherdale Moonreamer" had competed against each other in the Drum classes and Isobel was able to gain some insight into the Judge's reasoning for placing the horses in the order he did.

Mr. Jack Dean is a well known and respected judge, having judged at the highest levels throughout Australia for the **E.F.A.** (Equestrian Federation Australia), he is also on the panel of judges for the Australian Clydesdale Society (**CCHA**), Australian Stock Horse Association (**ASHA**), Palomino Society, Miniature Horse Association and many others.



Penrith Agricultural Show - August 2013 - Judge - Mr. Jack Dean

Drum Classes judged using Shire Show Standards

**Featherdale Moon Dreamer - 4 year old
Tobiano F1 Drum mare (50%Gypsy-50% Clydesdale)
Sire: Tom of Brackenhill - Reg.Gypsy Cob
Dam: McMurchie Moonlight - Reg Clydesdale Mare**



**Excalibur Park Apollo - 18 mths
Blagdon - minimal tobiano F1 Drum Colt
(50% Gypsy-25%Shire-25%Clydesdale)
Sire: Cillbarra Samson - Reg. Gypsy Cob
Dam: Tayso Barbie - Reg Appendix Shire
(50%Shire / 50%Clydesdale)**



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Results:

Excalibur Park Apollo – 1st Drum Colt/Stallion - Champion Drum Horse

Featherdale Moon Dreamer – 1st Drum filly/mare - Reserve Champion Drum Horse

Featherdale Moon Dreamer:

This mare is broader, wider and more solid, she is suited to carry more weight, however she is not withered for a saddle horse therefore she would be best suited for Drum Harness. Mr Dean went onto say that Featherdale Moon Dreamers build would be suited to carrying the Kettle Drums, however more height and a better wither would make her a better working Drum horse under saddle.

Excalibur Park Apollo:

This colt is a finer type and has a good wither to take a saddle; he has more action and extension and would therefore cover a lot more ground than the mare which is what you want for a ridden horse,

Summing up!

By getting this rare glimpse into the judges decision, it is clear that neither F1 Drum is best suited to the role of a working Drum horse, while one has greater weight carrying capacity, the other has the better movement and wither for a ridden breed.

As this is only the first generation of Drum horses in Australia getting this feedback from Mr. Dean provides an opportunity to look at both horses with a critical eye and from an outside viewpoint, we get to see what in his opinion needs improving and what needs to be retained when making the choice of Stallions or Mares to breed with in the future to help improve upon the next generation of Drum foals.

This is a good time to remember that being able to listen to others critiques on our horses can be both helpful and productive, but before you go asking for other opinions make sure you are open to hearing what they have to say, good or bad!

