

# Supporting the stars of the future

RICHFIELDS THREE-DAY EVENT IS TAKING AN INNOVATIVE NEW APPROACH THIS DECEMBER, WITH THE HELP OF CLIFTON EVENTERS

Two years ago, Richfields eventing took the initiative to introduce a CCI\*J class in their three-day event; a class run especially for riders aged 14 to 18, but with the same format and conditions as the one-star class.

The class proved popular among young competitors, but the Richfields committee, keen to nurture the Olympic stars of the future, decided to take a bold new move for this year's event; all competitors in the CCI\*J class will be given free entry.

The class will be sponsored by Frances Stead's well-known eventing stable Clifton Eventers, with fantastic scholarship prizes offered to the first three placegetters.

Richfields' committee was extremely proud that the winner of last year's CCI\*J class, Virginia Thompson on Johnny Suede, went on to win the CCI\* class at the Bell Tea National Three-day Eventing Championships in Taupo in May.

"Competing at FEI one-star level is something which should be within the reach of most pony club 'Open' level competitors," says Richfields spokeswoman Allison Lozell. "We're concerned about the declining numbers of riders in eventing, and enquires have led us to conclude that a major deterring

factor is the expense.

"So at the suggestion of our chairman, Bill Borrie, this year – our 11th successive event – all competitors in the CCI\*J class will have free entry. The only costs will be the FEI levies, camping and yard fees.

"We want to produce further success stories, and nurture our rising stars."

## The prize

The first placegetter will win a 10-day scholarship at the Clifton Eventers base at Muriwai, north-west Auckland, valued at \$2000. They will be allowed to bring their own horse, train with leading Advanced competitor Jonathan Paget, and also ride some of the Clifton event horses. The Clifton facility is first class, includes purpose-built dressage and show jumping arenas, and full stable facilities, and planning is underway for a cross-country course. It is just five minutes' drive from Muriwai beach and Woodhill forest.

The second placegetter will spend seven days at Clifton Eventers (valued at \$1400) and the third placegetter will win a five-day scholarship (valued at \$1000). Each scholarship is to be taken up at a time mutually agreeable between the winners

*Virginia and Johnny Suede won the CCI\*J class at Richfields last December*



*Jonathan and Clifton Promise at Richfields 2007*

and Clifton Eventers, and transport to and from Muriwai is at the winners' expense. The winners will be accommodated in the Clifton grooms' residence.

## Entry requirements

Horse and rider both need to be registered with the NZEF for eventing. See the NZEF website, [www.nzequestrian.org.nz](http://www.nzequestrian.org.nz), for details, or phone Rachael Simpson on (04) 499 8994.

In order to compete at FEI one-star level, both horse and rider must have three national Novice-level qualifying results. To qualify, you must complete an event with a minimum of 50% in the dressage, a maximum of 20 jumping faults and 16 time faults in cross-country, and 16 jumping faults in the show jumping. These qualifications do not need to be completed as a combination; ie. the horse can be qualified by a different rider, and the rider can have qualified on different horses.

For more information, see the website [www.richfieldseventing.co.nz](http://www.richfieldseventing.co.nz)

## Jonathan's countdown

Over the next four months, *NZ Horse & Pony* is proud to present an exclusive column, written by Jonathan Paget, which will help you and your horse or pony prepare for your first three-day event. Jonathan will cover fitness, training, preparation, trotting-up and presenting your horse to a ground jury, course walking and some professional tips and tricks for getting the most out of your own and your horse's performance.

H&P