



Once again the Standardbred State Championships were held at the S.E.C in Brigadoon. As usual the Best Presented classes were the most difficult to judge as horses were turned out immaculately but Admiral's Christmas and Kristie Morrone were once again sashed champion followed very closely by Take On Me and Alisha Giles for reserve. The judge and steward commenting that they were very impressed with the presentation across the board.

Numbers may have been down in the junior classes but quality certainly wasn't. The champion junior colt Shadow, snatched supreme junior just marginally from the champion filly Britney. Judge Bronwyn Weir commented that both these horses were of very high quality and either one could have taken top honors.

The senior classes were once again full. The Padberg family took the double in the stallion classes with flashy little Cousteau sashed champion and Just Like Josh gaining reserve. The mare classes were a bit more of a struggle to say the least but the big bold Take On Me walked away with the champion title followed by Pambush and Tracey Hansen who had a good tussle with Holmwood Chip and Carly Fawcett for reserve. Admirals Abernethy once again easily took champion gelding which makes it 3 out of 4 state championships for him, but the judge had a very difficult time in deciding reserve between the very flashy Lombo Selatan and the coloured gelding Kiowa Emerald. After being judged from every conceivable angle Lombo Selatan and V. Madden finally came out on top. It must be mentioned that unfortunately a lot of horses lost out on placing as the judge wanted a straight run directly back to her and if your horse was spooking and shying at the white barrier (which A LOT were) you were marked down. This was very unlucky for quite a few horses but was how the judge decided to judge on the day. After much deliberation the big mare Take On Me was sashed supreme senior much to the delight of owner Alisha Giles. The little yearling colt Shadow took on the daunting task of facing the supreme senior with grace, coming out on top much to the confused delight of owner Laurie Kennedy who was still trying to working out how he ended up in the Grand Champion ring in the first place! While wandering back to the stables with his little colt, rug and garland, Laurie was heard to be saying "when do I go up against the stallion?" His friend and groom for the day was patiently trying to explain the order of the day but Laurie was still insisting he couldn't remember facing the older stallion! It wasn't until it was explained to him that it was a mare that won the senior supreme and not a stallion that he started to realize what had happened! Well done Laurie, it is your innocence that we all love! The title of State Champion Exhibit couldn't have gone to a more deserving person.

The handler classes came down to the wire as the judge asked for extra workouts to make her decision. Sam Harris was finally sashed champion with Kristie Morrone a close reserve. Best trot is always a hard task for anybody to top the extravagance of Admirals Abernethy who is undefeated in this event but Pambush did a great job to slide in for second place. Texas Kid and Cousteau showed the little boys who had the goods when it came to best male head and who could go past the stunning heads of Take On Me and filly Britney for best female head. The Admiral Horses won Progeny group of two while owners group of two was brought home by Sarah Suvaljko and Take On Me/Pee Pee Gee.

The harness classes were struck with the heat but carried on regardless. It was a tight tussle between Pee Pee Gee and Texas Kid all day with Holmwood Chip throwing in a few challenges, but in the end it came down to the experience of Pee Pee Gee shining through to gain Supreme Harness exhibit over his smaller rival, who unfortunately lost his chance after deciding it was all too much and threw himself on the ground in a fit of rage!

Judge Rebecca Touris was going to make sure her champion rider was going to be worthy of the title giving extensive workouts with ALOT of sit trot! While Kristy Padberg took champion, the younger riders showed they were not to be out done with 15-year-old Carly Fawcett taking reserve. The ridden events were dominated by three horses all day. Glyding Moments and Lisa Carson, Maximus and Amber Kittson and Carly Fawcett and Holmwood Chip who shared all the top placings that were on offer. The judge was looking for a very forward moving horse and these three horses all had the goods. While there were not many canters asked for on the ring they were asked for in individual workouts for champion, which is where it mattered. The couple of times that canters on the circle were asked for things started to get a bit feral so the judge made the safest decision and only asked for walk and trot on the circle choosing the horses she liked and asking for extensive individual workouts for the champion ribbons that were on offer. Secret Serviceman and Emma Brandreth were given a berth in the supreme ridden ring after gaining a champion on a loose rein workout.

After a big day all four horses were starting to tire. While no one horse pulled out there best workout in the supreme ring the judge made the comment that all horses were worthy of the title but it was going to come down to personal preference. With that said the judge pulled forward 13-year-old Lisa Carson and Glyding Moments to be sashed Supreme Ridden Standardbred Exhibit 2004. Big congratulations must go to Lisa and Glyding Moments. The standard of ridden this year was by far the best we have seen in our four State titles so far and for a thirteen year old to win is a huge effort and a well deserved win. Congratulations must go to Alice Hurlbatt and Lana for winning the Encouragement Hack Award which was chosen by guest judge Anita Tafovac. Mention must be made that last years winner of this award Amber Kittson and Maximus were in the top three ridden horses this year. Thanks must go to Robert Watson and Lafarge Plastamasta and Tanya Hosford and the Pinto association.

RESULTS

LED CLASSES

Best Presented Exhibit

Champion: Admirals Christmas (Kristie Morrone)

Reserve: Take On Me (Alisha Giles)

Junior Colt

Champion: Shadow (Laurie Kennedy)

Junior Filly

Champion: Britney

Stallion 4yrs & over

Champion: Cousteau (Kristy Padberg)

Reserve: Just Like Josh (Kristy Padberg)

Mare 4yrs & over

Champion: Take On Me (Alisha Giles)

Reserve: Pambush (Tracey Hansen)

Gelding 4yrs & over

Champion: Admirals Abernethy

Reserve: Lombo Selatan (V Madden)

Senior Handler

Champion: Sam Harris

Reserve: Kristie Morrone

***Supreme Junior Exhibit - Shadow
Supreme Senior Exhibit – Take On Me***

Grand Champion Exhibit – Shadow

RIDDEN & HARNESS CLASSES

Champion Rider: Kristy Padberg

Reserve Champion Rider: Carly Fawcett

Supreme Ridden Exhibit - Lisa Carson and Glyding Moments

Supreme Harness Exhibit - Pee Pee Gee & Sarah Suvaljko