

## Daily Diary – Thursday, August 30<sup>th</sup>

Another day of jumping. The morning started out with some sun, but by the time our jumper riders were walking the course for this afternoon's grand prix, the sky was dark grey and the temperature had dropped significantly.

As he came out of the ring after his course walk, Eric Lamaze said, "It's nice but very high. There's a difficult triple combination (9 A-B-C) going away from the in-gate and a rather interesting line to the water. So far the courses have been difficult but fair for the horses (at this level)."

Torchy Millar, Canada's Jumper Team Chef d'Équipe concurred. "It's difficult. A lot of the jumps are at maximum height and the oxers are very wide. It's demanding and difficult and it's not easy for us to prepare for. At the shows in Canada we don't build courses like this at the national level. Confidence-wise it would help if the Canadian riders had more opportunity to compete in Europe."

Meanwhile, in the other outdoor ring, the Four-in-hand drivers began their first day of performing dressage tests. Like ridden dressage, the drivers must trot their team straight up the center line and salute the judge. In general terms, many of the movements are comparable, but made more complicated by the necessity of controlling not four equine legs, but sixteen. When done well, it's beautiful to see all of the horses moving precisely and rhythmically together.

Jill Henselwood rode a careful round on Special Ed but had two jumps down – 9A and 9C – both oxers at the beginning and end of the triple combination just past the in-gate. This fence had proven to be a bit of a bogey for many riders.

The next Canadian to ride was Chris Pratt. He and Rivendell had an excellent warm-up and rode the first half of the course beautifully. Like Jill, they met their nemesis at the triple. Rivendell sailed over the first oxer but slammed on the brakes in front of 9B, the vertical in the middle of the combination, unseating Chris.

Our third rider, Eric Lamaze rode a textbook perfect round on Hickstead. It was careful and controlled, in contrast to yesterday's speed class, and he brought in a clean round, just under the time allowed.

Canada's final representative was Ian Millar riding In Style. During his warm-up, fellow team mates Chris Pratt and Eric Lamaze were on hand for team support, as was Chef d'Équipe, Torchy Millar. Like his team mates, his round was going well until he reached the now-infamous triple combination. In Style's problems came not at the wide oxer, but instead at the vertical, 9B. After that the rest of the course seemed smooth until the 14th and last jump, a vertical set at 1.62 metres, the highest jump on the course. Down it came to groans from Canadian fans. Ian finished up with 8 jumping and 1 time fault.

We spoke with Torchy after the competition and he expressed his disappointment at the way things had turned out so far – although once again he commended Eric and Jill for their well ridden rounds.

### Other happenings

While walking across the grounds we came upon a young lady working with one of the driving horses. She was riding the horse and schooling it in collection – in a dressage saddle. We'd been told that the selection of, and training for, a horse for driving is very similar to the process applied to dressage – and here was the proof.

The Four-in-hand driving teams began their dressage competition today and will finish up tomorrow.

For "Daily Diary" updates from the 2006 World Equestrian Games, biographies and more, go to:

[www.sprucemeadows.com](http://www.sprucemeadows.com)

**News about the Canadian Equestrian Team proudly supported by Spruce Meadows.**



**SPRUGE MEADOWS**

## Tid Bits

Riding the shuttle back to the hotel we had a lovely conversation with Mexico's sole representative in reining, Gretel Valdes who purchased "Boomin Footwork", her mount here, in the United States. She revealed that she scored 71 and a half (emphasis on the 'half') in open competition in the United States. Like many of the Canadian competitors, she travels to the US to compete because of the prestigious shows and the prize money offered there.

For "Daily Diary" updates from the 2006 World Equestrian Games, biographies and more, go to:

[www.sprucemeadows.com](http://www.sprucemeadows.com)

**News about the Canadian Equestrian Team proudly supported by Spruce Meadows.**



**SPRUGE MEADOWS**