

## Vic Juniors at SA Show

It's a sunny afternoon as I pull into the Metro Showjumping Centre in Glenelg, Adelaide on Thursday 8th September 2011. This is where the Under 16 Victorian Junior Girls are preparing to take on the South Australian U16 girls at the Adelaide Show for the competition nights of 8th, 9th & 10th September 2011.

### **The U16 Victorian side consisting of:**

Kelsey Rowland  
Sharlee Rowland  
Taylor Radford  
Cassey Malady  
Remi Gray  
Emma Gersch  
Chelsea Williamson  
Coach Matt Bowman  
Manager Karen Rowland

### **The South Australian side**

Anja Hentschke  
Kate Hochuli  
Lucy Murnane  
Sarah Parsons  
Amy Matchoss  
Rebecca Burns  
Brittany May  
Coach: John Hentschke  
Manager: Darren Hochuli  
Umpire: Kym Berkin

The Victorian girls have been able to meet up with their coach, Matty Bowman on the Thursday morning for a practice and familiarisation session. Girls are feeling confident and have just finished washing their horses for the trip from the showjumping centre to the Adelaide show. The trip is 1.5 hours before the game to allow for traffic into the showgrounds. The girls will be transporting their horses each afternoon to the Show Grounds to play at 6.00pm under lights. The first night journey is unfamiliar as not sure where the grounds are or what to expect. The girls are a little quite during the trip and then once at the showgrounds they prepare their horses amongst the noise and excitement of the show. Horses and riders aren't too fazed by the people, sideshow alley lights and noises. The Vic's hit the ground running & seem to have a grasp on the game, but a few mistakes and disappointing link ups saw our 5 goal lead in the last chukka go and we were a draw with no time left other than for South Australia to score the winning goal in the dying seconds of the game. The crowd loved the game and especially the Crow supporters who saw their South Australian girls come from behind to steal the game. Friday morning and the Vic girls were up and about, eager to have their group training session.

Matty took the girls back to basics, development in areas of concerns, looking at passes, importance of the key players, support from the centre players and change of chukkas for the night's game. The commitment from the girls was oblivious with all of the girls playing to their best of ability and going out winners 22-10. Every player improved on their previous night's game and it was the whole team that showed on the field.

Now we had a series as both sides had a win on the board and the final nights play to come.! The team went out to dinner with the SA girls that night so everyone was aware of the task ahead. Karen Rowland thanked the South Australians for their organisation and assistance. Thank you to Darren & Jodie Hochuli, Umpire: Kym Berkin and commentator Drew Gurney and especially all of the parents for the travel and commitment. Everyone had a good night out except the Hawthorn supports who had to watch their side go down to Geelong.

Saturday morning saw the girls training session again involve quick sharp drills to get their eyes in and again focused. The girls were able to have a day trip to the Adelaide Show. Most of the girls were able to get their fix on a ride or two and definitely a show bag.

The trip in that night to the showgrounds saw the Vic girls listening to their iPods' and their focus on the game, Not sure that anyone actually spoke but everyone was aware of the task ahead.!

The girls went out and really played well, all members of the team did their job and mistakes were few. The Score was similar to Friday night- 24-12 Victoria way.

Emma Gersch played a exceptional game with her snapping ability in full flight in the 2nd and 4th chukka, taking some 5 snaps as the No1 in each chukka. Kelsey, Cassie & Taylor also doing their end jobs and the No2's Sharlee, Chelsea and Remi oblivious to anything but manning up and grabbing the opportunity loose balls.

Well done to Taylor Radford on winning the Best Pony award for the Show on "Flo Jo" Taylor indicated her horse did everything asked of her and always looked like she was loving the games.

Well done to Karen Rowland, Matty Bowman , the Victorian Girls and the parents for all their efforts on the Adelaide Show for 2011.



