

## FROM JANE JACKMAN - RE LONDON 2012 TEST EVENT



Briefly, it was a great opportunity for all involved to see the venue, participate in meetings and soak up the atmosphere while visualising what 2012 will look like.

Paul's young horse coped well for a 7 year old, it was somewhat of a leap from his last event at Longleat in terms of surroundings. The arena was raised off the ground by over 2000 metal struts/poles with a large grandstand at one end and a spectacular view of London from the grandstand. The cross country was a straightforward CIC2\* course with one steep uphill pull and many distractions – the view not the least, especially over one of the fences which when we walked it looked like you were jumping straight into London. Sounds odd, but if you have seen any of the footage available it will be clear. There is a write up on the event on the FEI webpage under Eventing news. We agreed both horse and rider had to really focus but Paul admitted that he looked up just for a nano second - he had to get the picture in his mind!

Mike and I met variously with Catrin, Giuseppe, Patricia, Jennifer Millar, spoke briefly to Ronald and others. It is gratifying to note that South Africa is very much part of the scene – thanks in the main to Alex, Paul, Stuart, Hayley and now Quinton competing regularly at various events up and down the UK.

Clayton Fredericks (Riders Rep on the Technical Committee) approached us to give a heads up of an email to be sent from the Australian Federation regarding the qualification for the Team Event at Blenheim (rider and horse combination must have MER at CCI3\*). They propose to use the same qualification for the CCI3\* class at Blenheim which they say would suit them better. Coincidentally Suzuki from the Japanese Federation was also there while talking to Catrin and she said the Japanese Federation were in agreement.

However, as Giuseppe says it is a Championship and therefore the Technical Committee would have to discuss any proposal put forward by the Federations involved. We wait to hear. Currently Alex and Paul are qualified to ride in the Team competition, there are other riders keen to qualify but time is short. Catrin has asked for a final commitment by 18 August but first we wait to hear about the proposal.

Also coincidentally, as we were leaving and in conversation with Nick Turner who works with the Brazilian team, he was telling us that the Pan American Games to be held in Mexico in October are to be run at 2\* level – the riders still have to qualify for 2012 via the criteria as published by the FEI. Can find no logical explanation for this so far, but did ask Patricia to find out more.