



Secondary School Sport **mail**

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Showjumping on the up

Canterbury showjumping is on the up and up, if a secondary school competition, held last week in Christchurch, is anything to go by.

Over 100 equestrians flocked to Canterbury Park's Isaac Arena at Wigram to take part in the annual Canterbury Inter-Secondary Schools' Showjumping Competition, the largest turnout in five years.

Organiser Pippa Young said 13 secondary schools fielded 23 teams, up from 10 teams in 2003. "It (the

competition) has got a momentum all of its own," said Young said.

A dozen individual riders also took part.

Young, a teacher at Rangitikei Girls' School, who started the competition, said it enabled equestrian students to be recognised by their schools for their sporting achievements. "To give them a day like this is wonderful. It's really nice to see."

Riders competing in teams of three to four competitors jumped two courses at one of three different height levels — 85cm,

95cm and 1m5cm. Teams had to include riders jumping at each of the three heights.

Competitors who achieved clear rounds then took part in a jump off, riding against the clock, with each rider's points going towards their team's tally.

Course designer Lex Peddie, a parent member of the competition committee, said the courses differed, with one tighter and the other longer. "It tested the students' abilities to read a course and then ride it," he said.

St Andrew's College student Raissa Woudenberg, of Weedons, who jumped 1m5cm on her 14hh mare Hochstetter, was pleased with her results — first and fourth. She accumulated 29 of her team's 64 points, helping St Andrew's land in third place, the first time the school had been placed in the competition.

Rangiora High School student Katie Meredith, 14, riding her hack Midwinter Blue, said it was the third time she had taken part in the competition. "I always enjoy it," she said.

Rangitikei Girls' School's Blue Team was the overall winner with a points total of 71.5. The team was made up of riders Shona Cole, of Dunsandel, Elisabeth Denham, of Ohoka, and Natalie Weaver and Katie Field, both of West Melton. Katie, riding Chief Comanche at the 85cm height, achieved 27 of the team's points.



Winning combination: St Andrew's College student Raissa Woudenberg, of Weedons, riding Hochstetter, was placed first and fourth at the Canterbury Inter-Schools' Showjumping Competition at Canterbury Park, last week, helping her team score third place.

Photo: Lorraine Carmody.



Showjumping champions: Rangitikei Girls' School blue team won last week's Canterbury Inter-Secondary Schools Showjumping championships. Katie Field, of West Melton, left, Elisabeth Denham, of Ohoka, Shona Cole, of Dunsandel, and Natalie Weaver of West Melton.

St Margaret's College was second with 60 points, Rangitikei Girls' Gold fourth, 58, Marian College with only three in the team, fifth, 50 and Villa Maria College sixth, 40.

Middleton Grange, Avonside Girls', Christchurch Girls', Burnside, Rangiora, Darfield and Lincoln High Schools.

Other schools entering teams included Oxford Area School, Cashmere, Papanui and Bircartton High Schools entered individual riders.

Speedway ace back to best form

Christchurch Boys' High speedway rider Anthony Knowles has returned from serious injury to win the Moore Park Challenge Cup and New Zealand short track junior class solo titles.

The teenager spent several days in Christchurch Hospital after crashing at an Ivan Manger Academy training day at Moore Park Speedway in January. His bike was clipped from behind and he hit the wall at the end of the straight with enough force to split his helmet.

Knowles was back to his best, though, when he topped the Moore Park Cup standings at Easter ahead of

Nelson's Adam Wilson and Oreti's Jack McRae.

Results were less clear cut when the defending champion, Burnside High's Konner McCluskey-Young, entered the fray for the short track event.

McCluskey-Young took the challenge to Knowles and led the qualifying points. He dropped just one point, to Knowles, in heat four.

Knowles failed to score in his second ride and had to play catch-up to make the final four. He made the ideal start in the final and never lost the lead.



Comeback kid: Christchurch Boys' High School speedway rider Anthony Knowles' long injury lay-off did not stop him winning a brace of titles at Easter.

Photo: Graeme Robertson