

CSIO* Seoul – April 2007

On 18 and 19 April, three riders from Australia competed as a team at the CSIO* Seoul Jumping event on borrowed horses. The riders were Russell Morrison, Adam Mellers and Merrick Ubank. The venue was a large equestrian park on the outskirts of Seoul in South Korea, which had stabling for 150 horses and two large sand areas for training and a large competition area with seating for 5000 people.

The riders drew three horses, of which two were originally Australian. 'No Worries', a 13 y.o. 16.1 chestnut gelding was ridden by Russell. 'KRA Time Rights', a 16 y.o dark brown gelding was ridden by Merrick and Adam was riding 'Lego', a 16 y.o. bay gelding.

The team event was held on 18 April. In the first round Adam started off very well jumping a clear round, Russell rode second and had the final two fences down to finish on 8 faults. Merrick was next and got his very volatile horse around with only one fence down. After the first round the team finished on 12 faults, only one time fault ahead of Korea who finished on 13 faults.

In the second round Adam's horse came out looking very tired and he did a wonderful job to complete his round with only 8 faults. Russell's second round was much better than his first as he jumped a clean round. With one rider to go the team had a 21 fault buffer from the second placed team, Korea. Merrick had the first fence down but held his nerve remarkable well to finish the rest of the course clean and finish on 4 faults. The Australians won the event by 17 faults with South Korea placing second and Japan third.

On the following day, Adam Meller rode in the individual competition and placed second on his borrowed horse. Another fantastic result for Australia.

The great team work between all team members was a vital key to winning the event with each team member helping out in the practice area to pick up rails and providing helpful feedback for the other members.

The EFA would like to congratulate Russell, Adam and Merrick on their wonderful results and the positive team spirit that they exhibited at the event.