

Our Proud Olympic History

Barcelona 1992

Eventing

Matt Ryan

Andrew Hoy

Gillian Rolton

David Green

Dressage

Christine Doan



Gill Rolton and Peppermint Grove at Barcelona

The Eventing Team's golden trifecta started at Barcelona in 1992. The Team consisted of Matt Ryan (*Kibah Tic Toc*), Andrew Hoy (*Kiwi*), David Green (*Duncan*) and Gillian Rolton (*Peppermint Grove*). Christine Doan (*Donaldo*) represented Australia in Dressage finishing 28th. There were no Australian jumping riders at Barcelona.

"People sometimes say to me 'you were lucky to make the team for Barcelona' and my answer to that is 'Good luck happens when planning, belief and hard work meets opportunity...' and it certainly helped to have a fantastic horse," said Gillian Rolton.

The event was about 2 hours away by bus from the Olympic village. The course was tough and the conditions hot and humid.

On cross-country day there was only one clear round within the time. Matt Ryan was the fastest of the Australian Team.

Going into the final phase the New Zealand team had a strong lead over Australia, and seemed likely to win the event.

'We went into the final day thinking we may get a medal if we jumped well,' recalled Gill. 'Denis Goulding, Wayne Roycroft, Jim Dunn and the team of grooms did a fantastic job of re-hydrating the horses and they felt fresh for the final day.'

New Zealand's Andrew Nicholson had a disastrous round dropping nine rails which meant if Matt could clear all but one jump, Australia would win both gold medals. (To add to the pressure Matt had 5 rails down at the final competition before the Games). Matt and *Tic Toc* kept their cool and cleared all but the last fence. Matt secured individual gold and the team won gold by the finest of margins, 1.2 penalties!